

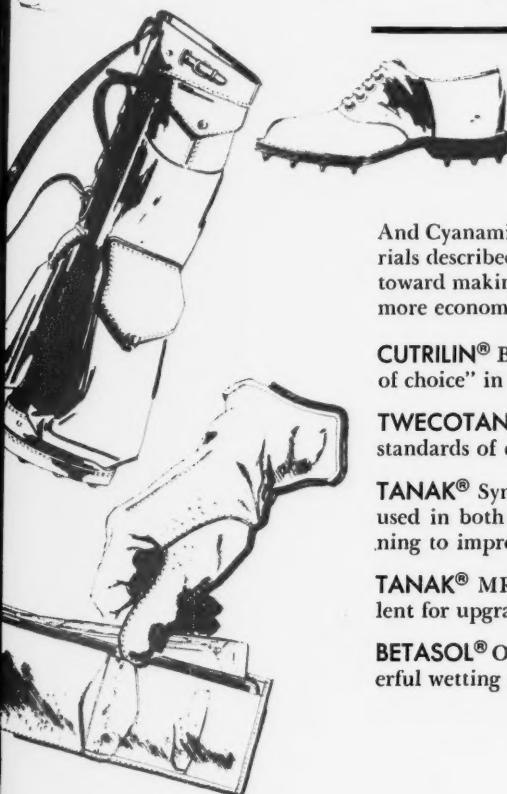
LEATHER and SHOES

The International Shoe and Leather Weekly

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BOSTON





LEATHER and SHOES

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IN THIS ISSUE

FEATURES

| | |
|---|---|
| MILITARY LEATHERS AND FOOTWEAR, By Dr. S. J. Kennedy | 6 |
| NEW IDEAS IN SHOE CONSTRUCTION | 8 |

THE NEWS

| |
|--|
| ARMY REVEALS SHOE REQUIREMENTS TO MID-1951 |
| SHOE OUTPUT SEEN DOWN 5.5% IN OCTOBER |
| CIO SHOE UNION PLANS NEW YORK WAGE DRIVE |
| COURT RULES GLOVE TRUST SUIT BE HELD |
| CIO LAUNCHES LEATHER WORKER DRIVE |
| BRITISH SHOE EXPERTS VISIT U.S. PLANTS |
| INTERNATIONAL SHOE ANNOUNCES MORE PRICE BOOSTS |

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THE STAFF

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|---|
| PUBLISHER Elmer J. Rumpf |
| EDITOR AND ASST PUBLISHER William A. Rossi |
| NEWS AND MARKET EDITOR Irving B. Roberts |
| PRODUCTION MANAGER Paul C. Tedford |
| CIRCULATION MANAGER June Mason |

OFFICERS

President: Elmer J. Rumpf; Vice Presidents: C. E. Belding, F. G. Moynahan, W. A. Rossi; Secretary, L. C. Bedford.

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HEADQUARTERS

THE RUMPF PUBLISHING CO.
300 W. ADAMS ST., CHICAGO 6, ILL.
PHONE—CENTRAL 6-9353

EDITORIAL OFFICE

10 HIGH ST., BOSTON 10, MASS.
PHONE—LIBERTY 2-4652

BRANCH OFFICES

BOSTON 10, MASS.—Frederick G. Moynahan, George G. Dunning, 10 High St., Liberty 2-4652 • NEW YORK 7, N. Y.—Cardwell E. Belding, 20 Vesey St., Barclay 7-8783 • PHILADELPHIA 40, PA.—Cardwell E. Belding, 6008 Jefferson St., Greenwood 7-6785 • CINCINNATI 2, OHIO—Robert O. Bardon, 529 Sycamore St., Main 6662 • ST. LOUIS 7, MO.—William Creahan, 3028a N. 21st St., Central 3494 • GREAT BRITAIN, AND EUROPE—J. B. Tratsart Ltd., 5 London St., London, W. 2, Paddington 5946 • SWEDEN & NORWAY—Nils Haraldson, Drottninggatan, 2, Orebro, Sweden, Orebro 13027.

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LETTERS TO

L&S

This column invites the opinions of all L&S readers.

Always Stimulating

Despite the many news letters published today, particularly in news and business magazines, I find the L&S News X-Ray has an important spot in my weekly reading schedule. First, it is unique in that it deals with only one industry—the hide, leather and shoe field—in which I'm particularly interested. Secondly, it never fails to stimulate my thinking on the industry, probes into many conditions that are rarely brought into the open. Of course, I can't always agree with everything you say but I admire your honesty in saying what you think.

JONATHAN ROSS

Controlled Stitching

We have read your article, "Controlled Stitching," with considerable interest. We have been having some problems with the stitching of men's shoe uppers, and it may well be that Controlled Stitching could be the answer to these problems. We are certainly going to investigate it.

H. W. SOHLEMANN

General Manager
Bienes Industriales, S. A.
Bogota, Colombia

Cows Again

About that editorial of Sept. 16, "Cows Don't Wear Shoes"—let me add my few words' worth.

Hide men alone don't make high prices. But demand does. We still remember the lesson of Post-World War I. We are not anxious to see wild bidding up of prices, only to get stuck with those high-priced hides later with a sudden collapse of the market.

However, I do think your editorial was timely and served as a warning to help stop a runaway market. It probably saved a lot of headaches for all concerned.

S. N. LEVINE

S. N. Levine Co.
Detroit, Mich.

DANGER: MERGER AHEAD

An AFL-CIO shoe worker merger can work for great good, depending . . .

AT its recent national convention, held in Cleveland, the United Shoe Workers of America (CIO), unanimously passed this extremely important resolution: that the USWA meet with the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, AFL, and other independent shoe industry unions to discuss the idea of a merger of all shoe unions to form one industry-wide group.

If such a merger occurs—and there is very good promise that it will eventually—the shoe industry will be confronted with a single labor bargaining agent, much as exists in the steel, coal and automobile industries. Bargaining and contract agreements would tend to be less localized, more on a nation-wide basis.

It is likely that we shall see specific plants (particularly the larger firms whose contracts set a sort of precedent for others to follow), or a specific locality such as St. Louis or Brockton, selected by the union as "test" cases—much as is done in the auto or steel industries. The contract made in these test areas would become pretty much the pattern for the entire industry.

A Serious Problem

This could pose a serious problem. Wage rates differ according to localities in the shoe manufacturing centers. New York and Los Angeles, for instance, have appreciably higher rates than Boston and Cincinnati, while the latter are higher than Baltimore or Arkansas.

There are two basic reasons for these wage differentials: higher cost of living in the larger metropolitan centers, and usually a higher skilled labor pool. The former reason is by far the more influential. Whether a single wage rate scale applied to all shoe manufacturing centers would be good or bad could be argued pro and con. Manufacturers now paying higher wage rates to make a product competitive with those produced by manufacturers in low-wage areas would be much in favor of the single wage scale nationally on the grounds that it would create a more equitable competitive match. But the low-wage

L and S Editorial

manufacturer—and perhaps some union officials—could argue that the higher skilled and more experienced labor force in the high-wage areas is more productive, thus compensating for the wage differential.

How would the workers themselves feel about a single wage scale? The lower-wage worker in Baltimore would certainly be happy to receive the higher wages of the shoe worker in New York City. But the New Yorker could argue that he needs a relatively higher wage to meet his higher costs of living. That is, a wage differential should exist between Baltimore and New York to make it even in terms of "real" income.

The Boot & Shoe Workers Union has expressed some willingness to discuss the merger idea with the CIO shoe workers—but with the qualifying note, according to an AFL official, that the CIO get rid of its Communist officials. However, we believe the CIO has done a good job in keeping its few extreme leftist officials (such as the late Julius Crane of Chicago district, and Isadore Rosenberg of the New York City district) in line with CIO policy. Moreover, at the convention in Cleveland this month the USWA passed a resolution strongly condemning Communism. It also adopted an amendment aimed at leftist locals, providing that no local, district council or joint council may take part in demonstrations or parades without specifically identifying itself. The Communism that exists in the USWA is negligible, certainly no more of an influence on union policy than exists among other strongly non-Communist unions.

The affiliation of the AFL, CIO and independent shoe worker unions would comprise an impressive total membership well over 100,000—approximately half of all U. S. shoe factory workers. Some shoe manufacturers have expressed the belief that such a merger might be

beneficial for the whole industry, as it would put a stop to strikes of small, specialized groups that virtually tie up a factory. For example, if the cutters are on strike but all other groups are not, a prolonged strike by the relatively small group of cutters could be as effective as though all groups were out. A merger of all groups into a single union might well prevent this.

Enormous Power

Such a merger of shoe unions would result in enormous power for the union. Power, if abused, can resolve into a dangerous monopoly such as John L. Lewis' coal workers. But if all the responsibilities of such a merger are upheld, then it can work to the benefit of the entire industry. Here it is well to recall the words of Theodore Roosevelt: "I hold it to be our duty to see that the wage-worker . . . shall get his fair share of the benefit of business prosperity. But it should be made evident that business has to prosper before anybody can get any benefit from it."

It is high time that union officials and employers in this industry expand their relationship that is now restricted only to the bargaining table at wage-contract time. If the industry—that is, labor-management relations—is to make progress for the mutual benefit of all groups that determine its progress, then it must set up many more specialized discussions than a wage negotiation table.

It is certainly not sacrilege to parody the revered "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag" to make it apply to our future: "I pledge allegiance to the shoe industry of the U. S., and to the progress for which it stands. One industry, indivisible, with prosperity and justice for all."

We can no more have selfish, one-sided interests within an industry than we can within a nation. The quicker we realize that we are dealing with human problems, the sooner we shall reap the benefits that arise from wholesome human relations—the current challenge of labor and management in this industry.

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A Research Developments Report

MILITARY LEATHERS AND FOOTWEAR

It's surprising what rigorous tests are revealing about our products

by

Dr. S. J. Kennedy, Research Director

Research & Development Branch; Textile, Clothing & Footwear Section

Office of The Quartermaster General

THE prospect of expanding mobilization will necessarily tend to focus the attention of the footwear and leather industries upon military requirements. These industries, which did such a magnificent job for the Military Services during World War II, are now confronted with the necessity for turning their thinking again to the prospect of increased requirements for military footwear of all kinds. While our current requirements have not placed an undue burden upon the industry, possible requirements in the event of large scale mobilization will certainly be large. What I have to say here will deal with the developments which we have undertaken, some of which will be reflected in the near future in our specifications, and others of which will undoubtedly come into procurement before long depending upon the completion of tests now underway.

I should like to first discuss the insole of our service shoes and combat boots. The insole forms the foundation of the Goodyear Welt shoe. It is important in the manufacturing process, since a poor insole will cause trouble in manufacturing. To a large extent the development of insole leather has been geared in the past largely to meet this requirement. The properties desired by shoe manufacturers in insoles have been considered in the development of insole leather to a far greater extent than the requirement for an insole which will stand up during the life of the shoe and furnish a sound foundation which will support the rest of the shoe structure.

Commercial insoles do not meet this service requirement, at least so far as Army service conditions are concerned. For example, during the war when we undertook the program

of rebuilding of shoes, it was found that a very large proportion, over 50 percent, could not be repaired despite the fact that the shoe uppers were still in serviceable condition, the insoles had cracked or curled or guttered, and the properties so changed that rebuilding of the shoe proved impracticable. Furthermore, our own salvage studies undertaken during the latter part of the war showed that approximately two-thirds of all combat footwear showed a degree of failure in the insoles which could be regarded as a prime cause of failure of the shoe.

In a test conducted in 1945 it was found that great improvement in insole serviceability could be attained by an additional treatment of the insole. A retannage of the insole with a metallic tannage, either chrome or alum or zirconium, all produced a far better insole. Other treatments

of the vegetable-tanned insole leather also gave improved performance. In fact it would appear that there are a number of possibilities for additional treatments which would improve insole leather.

The possibility of using a chrome after-treatment was seriously considered during the war. Because of shortage of chrome, emphasis was focused upon the possibility of developing an alum retreatment. This work, which has been carried on at the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has served to strengthen our conviction that alum retreatment offers promising results. One tanner has produced a very fine insole with an alum after-treatment. It is known that a retannage with chrome is practical, and also one based on zirconium.

A year and a half ago this matter was taken up by a special committee appointed by the Tanners' Council to work with us on an improved Army insole. Currently a specification is being prepared based upon a combination vegetable and metallic retannage. Some technical problems still remain to be worked out, but the prospect of our adoption of such a combination tanned insole, with particular emphasis upon alum as a retannage, should be faced by the industry, and further plant trials run voluntarily by individual tanners to prepare themselves for the adoption of such a specification.

Meanwhile the Tanners' Council Committee has prepared a specification for an improved all-vegetable-tanned insole which will be adopted in the immediate future.

Sole Leather

While outsole leather as such is not a major factor in Army combat footwear, since its replacement by the much longer-wearing composition sole, there is still a requirement for it for the Shoes, Low Quarter, Tan, and the women's shoes. In addition, the basic shoe of the Navy is a low quarter oxford which has a leather sole. Improvements in the leather sole to give greater wear have been demonstrated by the National Bureau of Standards, by the impregnation of sole leather with a relatively small amount of resins or synthetic rubber. This process is not expensive and does not require complicated additional equipment.

In view of the excellent wear performance of competitive synthetic soling materials, improvements in the wear life of sole leather ought to be receiving the utmost attention by the

Significant Comments

TRENCH FOOT: "I should like to state emphatically that the problem of injurious effects of cold and moisture upon the foot is not primarily a problem of footwear."

"BREATHING" OF LEATHER: "Despite the great importance attached by the leather industry to what is commonly referred to as 'breathing' characteristics of leather, it has been surprising to us to find out actually how little is known about the performance of leather in this respect."

SOLE LEATHER: "In view of the excellent wear performance of competitive synthetic soling materials, improvements in the wear life of sole leather ought to be receiving the utmost attention of the sole leather industry."

MILDEWPROOFING LEATHER: "We have been greatly concerned about the loss of military footwear due to attack by various types of micro-organisms."

SYNTHETIC TANNAGES: "For the production of upper, insole and midsole leather the Military Establishment is confronted with a serious problem from the standpoint of strategic and critical materials. . . . In time of emergency there is no assurance that supplies could be obtained from overseas. Accordingly, development of domestic tanning materials is of greatest importance."

slightly on repeated wettings and dryings, a strain is set up between these two which, in the presence of a weak bond, will ultimately lead to separation. Studies have indicated that an improved bond can be attained without change in present manufacturing processes if suitable adhesives and proper curing are employed. In the immediate future all specifications for shoes having a rubber outsole will be amended to require a bond of five pounds per inch between the outsole and the midsole under a standard stripping test. Studies are continuing with a view to raising this requirement to a higher level as soon as practicable.

Further studies are being conducted on adhesives, thread, bottom filler, shank pieces, counters, and other shoe components with a view to eliminating sources of failure in order to insure a maximum degree of conservation through obtaining longer service life of the shoe under field conditions.

Felt Boot And Shoepac

The felt boot was developed during the war as an auxiliary item of arctic footwear for special troops. As redeveloped it has a white rubber bottom sole and heel lift of crinkly crepe design for better traction. A source of failure along the back stay has been created by employing a full-length leather back stay in place of a felt back stay reinforced with a leather patch.

The shoepac is now a highly important item of Army footwear. It provides a far better answer to the problem of keeping the soldier's feet dry under wet cold conditions than anything else we have developed and tested. As designed it accommodates one felt insole and two pairs of ski socks. As with the mukluk this multiple layer insulation provides an efficient means for rapid drying. In addition, the shoepac represents an important conservation of leather.

I should like to state emphatically that the problem of injurious effects of cold and moisture upon the foot is not primarily a problem of footwear. There is a prevailing misconception on this point which entirely overlooks the fact demonstrated in both British and U. S. Army combat experience, that two Units side by side at the front line, clad in identical footgear may have totally different

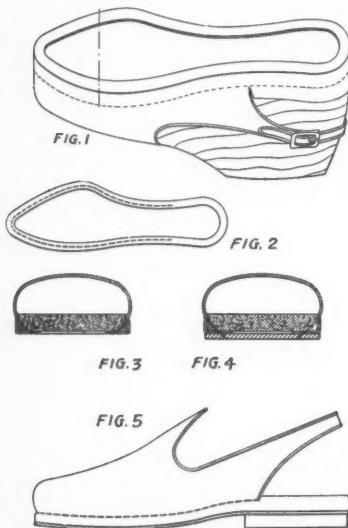
(Continued on Page 28)

NEW IDEAS IN SHOE CONSTRUCTION

Ways to achieve quality and economy in making footwear

ANGLE-STITCHED WRAPPER AND PLATFORM SHOE

Figure 1 offers a unique shoe construction, a combination of conventional lasting-to-the wood, wrapper lasting (no actual wrapper but the upper carried on to so function) and stitching the upper through the platform and emerging at an angle onto a choice of the bottom of the platform, or the bottom of the lapped-over upper on the outsole. Figure 2 shows the stitching emerging on the outside of the wrapper.



This process permits lasting-to-the wood, thus ending so many problems in California structure, particularly that of closed toes. No mention appears of how the foot may be protected against the raw surface of the platform material, no doubt owing to the assumption that the platform may be so made.

The last has been removed from the cut-a-way section of Figure 3. This assembly comprises an upper lasted over the platform, and the

45-degree stitching from the top edge of the platform to the shoe bottom.

Figure 4 goes further in this stitching possibility by attaching the outsole, so eliminating the need to cement-bond the sole.

Figure 5 presents the finished shoe, with the demarcation line of stitching relieving the unbroken line of the upper.

Lasting to the wood may save headaches for those who wish to simulate California closed toes at low cost. The elimination of wrapper, sock lining, and expensive upper fitting all save additional expense. But a construction that will hold its shape indefinitely seems outstanding here, proving that thread bonding of shoe parts still prevails; and the method of stitching on the sole makes for compactness in shoe structure.

Inventor: D. E. Levin, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Pat. No. 2,500,613.

MOLDED CALIFORNIA SHOE

The idea of a molded California shoe appears in completed form in Figure 1. While the construction remains authentically California, the idea of pre-molding the toe and heel parts makes for a progressive construction.

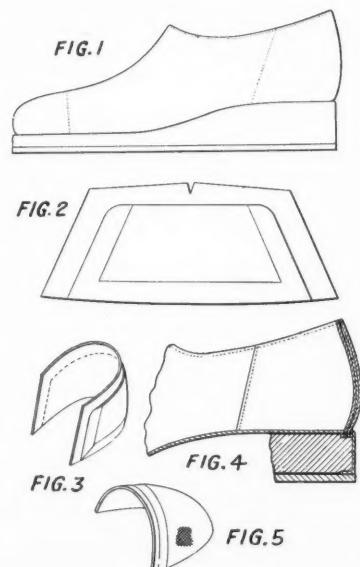
Figure 2 sets forth the first stages of the construction, a unit of the heel parts, including upper material, counter, and lining. But rather than keep to the idea of counter pocket to receive a molded counter, the entire assembly here appears in laminated form before the molding operation of Figure 3.

All this seems to follow the techniques used with solution-dipped box toes, save that there the back part is not lasted but molded.

Figure 4 illustrates the manner and style in which the molded parts join the remainder of the shoe.

Figure 5 repeats what has been done to the back part, establishing the affinity to solution-dipped box toes.

Several points not clear deal with the time of folding the back part to the rest of the shoe. The lapping over edge, side, for uniting with stitching permits no problem; but whether the top edges are pre-folded with the molding is not clear. Perhaps this all follows the practice common to molded counters in slippers, everything done at the time of molding.



The stitching in of the sock lining and relasting revert to conventional California practice. But save for the cost of handling to and from a molding concern, this shoe has possibilities.

Inventor: W. F. Herlihy, Haverhill Mass.; Patent No. 2,442,239.



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SHIPPING is hard on the feet too!

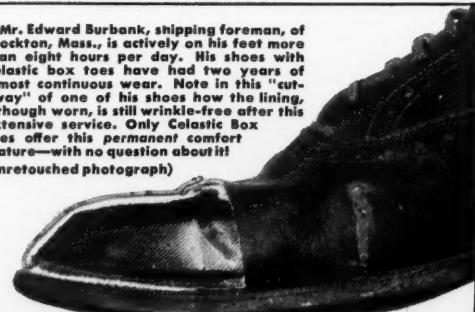
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Mr. Edward Burbank, shipping foreman, of Brockton, Mass., is actively on his feet more than eight hours per day. His shoes with Celastic box toes have had two years of almost continuous wear. Note in this "cut-away" of one of his shoes how the lining, although worn, is still wrinkle-free after this extensive service. Only Celastic Box Toes offer this permanent comfort feature—with no question about it!

(Unretouched photograph)



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UNITED SHOE MACHINERY CORPORATION
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS



Leather and Shoes NEWS X-RAY

CIO finally opens drive to organize nation's leather workers, now dominated by Communist-led International Fur and Leather Workers Union. Open-air rally in Peabody this week first step in right direction. Close to 10,000 leather workers in Massachusetts, many members of IFLWU.

Organization drive sure to set off fireworks. Ben Gold-controlled union on its way out, will do utmost to hold present membership. CIO has long, hard job ahead . . . but the stakes are worth it. Leather industry sure to profit if its workers are given collective bargaining representation by CIO, now well-purged of Red elements.

CIO has campaign well-planned, determined to win over workers regardless of how long it takes. Procedure will be entirely legal. Once CIO gets necessary worker signatures, it will petition National Labor Relations Board for bargaining agent election in each individual plant. This means slow progress but IFLWU will eventually find itself out in cold.

Tanners can help themselves and workers by taking definite stand for CIO right now. In some cases, it's a matter of educating workers to issues at stake. Many are concerned only with fact IFLWU has given them wage raises and other benefits which all unions today have won for workers. These are apt to ignore fact IFLWU has constantly followed Soviet line, proved time and again it places its own interests above those of worker.

Knockdown, dragout fight is distinct possibility before decision is won. Tanners should be on lookout for intimidation of workers. Strong support from management can be instrumental in helping leather workers win fair representation.

With high-paying defense industries beginning to eat up available worker supply, tanners and shoe manufacturers should take note of significant wage factor. Leather and leather products workers' weekly pay envelopes still hold considerably less than average weekly earnings of production worker.

Latest Labor Department Hours and Earnings Report shows weekly earnings of 12.9 million production workers in U. S. manufacturing establishments averaging \$60.53 in mid-Sept., an increase of \$5 over last year. Department attributes increase to combined effects of longer workweek, higher wage rates, and relatively larger gain in employment in higher-paying durable goods industries over others.

Average weekly earnings of leather and leather products workers in Sept. were \$45.47, a decline from \$46.45 average of Aug. Average weekly hours fell from 39.2 in Aug. to 37.7 in Sept. Only gain recorded was in average hourly earnings, which crept from \$1.185 in Aug. to \$1.206 in Sept.

• • •

Actually, about 15.6 million workers now employed in manufacturing industries . . . about equal to former postwar high in Sept. 1948. Unemployment now slightly over two million, indicating how few workers are left to go around. Defense and other expanding industries must recruit new workers from other industries rather than going to unemployment roster. This is where leather and shoe plants will suffer.

If defense industries are unable to get needed workers, Government may turn to long-feared labor draft . . . a more distinct possibility than supposed. Not likely for some time if world situation remains relatively undisturbed. What happens if Russia opens up another "front" in Tibet, Indo China, etc., is another story. Sudden forced defense industry expansion may call President's hand, force him into labor draft.

• • •

As part of national CIO's drive for pensions, local unions are checking on amount corporations pay on company pension plans for executives and higher-salaried employees. Wherever union can find company which finances good pensions for executives and none for workers, it plans public attacks such as the recent one on Phelps-Dodge. Latter was cited by CIO as having profits of \$40 million and "brazenly spending" \$400,000 annually on executive pensions but refusing "even to discuss" pensions for its 12,000 production workers. CIO charges this is "playing the game of Communism."

United Shoe Workers of America, CIO shoe union, planning to make use of research done by parent CIO division of economics and statistics. Shoe manufacturers (if any) having pension plans for executives but none for workers are apt to feel hot glare of adverse publicity.

ARMY TO STEP UP SHOE BUYING

ANNOUNCES SHOE NEEDS TO MID-1951

Footwear Orders To Total \$48 Million

This week the Army gave more than a hint of the magnitude of military footwear orders to come. The Quartermaster Corps in New York cautiously estimated that its footwear expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951, would reach a grand total of \$48 million of which only \$5 million has been spent.

Figures given by the Quartermaster are based on requirements as of Oct. 13, 1950, and are subject to revision.

The Army explained that it was releasing overall expenditures on footwear, textiles and clothing manufacture "so that industry may be advised as to bulk Army requirements and make their plans accordingly." Representatives of industries in these fields, the Army said, have urged that they be told Army needs as soon as possible in order to plan raw material procurement and manufacturing operations.

Specifically, the Quartermaster reported it would place a total of \$35 million in orders for leather footwear and another \$13 million for other footwear by June 30. Some \$4 million worth of Bid Invitations have already been issued for leather footwear with the total sum awarded while less than \$500,000 of \$1 million worth of Bid Invitations on other footwear has been awarded.

Procurement officials offered no breakdown of estimated expenditures by specific items and quantities, left themselves a wide loophole by stating all present estimates "are subject to revision in conformity with future Congressional legislation and also with changing Army requirements.

Quartermaster bid invitations issued in New York cover footwear procurement for both the Army and Air Corps. The Navy issues its own orders from the same office while the Marine Corps generally issues its invitations from Philadelphia. Neither of the latter two have indicated their footwear requirements for the period.

Industry sources predicted a rising volume of leather boot and shoe orders from the Army and Air Force during the next nine months. The Army has just issued a call for 471,

000 combat boots in what is generally regarded as the opening gun in its program to meet military clothing requirements. Based on present plans, another five to six million pairs of boots and shoes are expected to be requisitioned by June 30 of next year.

Shoe manufacturers look for an early drop in hide and skin and consequently leather prices may be doomed to disappointment if military buying plans materialize. Leather footage required by service boot and shoe orders will eat up a sizable chunk of available raw material supplies, serve to keep both hide and leather prices at fairly firm levels for months to come.

SHOE OUTPUT SEEN DOWN 5.5% IN OCT.

Shoe production in Oct. will approximate only 37.5 million pairs or a decrease of 5.5 percent from Oct., 1949 output, the Tanners' Council estimates. Should this estimate materialize, total shoe production for the first 10 months of 1950 would amount to 410,248,000 pairs, only 1.9 percent above output in the comparable 1949 period.

The Council estimates Sept. output at 44.4 million pairs or 3.2 percent more than Sept. 1949 figures. This would bring production for the first nine months of the year to 372,748,000 pairs or 2.7 percent more than in the first nine months of last year.

Court Rules Glove Trust Suits Be Held

The Government's anti-trust suit against the glove manufacturers associations and 28 individual manufacturers will be held as scheduled, according to a ruling this week by Federal Judge Stephen W. Brennan in Utica, N. Y. Judge Brennan denied three motions calling for dismissal of the suit.

The Justice Department complaint against the National Association of Leather Glove Manufacturers, Inc., and the Association of Knitted Glove and Mitten Manufacturers, both of Gloversville, charges restraint of interstate trade, price fixing, blacklisting dealers who refused to accept fixed prices, and other violations of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act.

The Court allowed a request for "more definite statements" regarding names of alleged conspirators but denied all others. Defendants had had filed dismissal motions on Aug. 1 of this year.

SHOE UNION PLANS NEW YORK WAGE DRIVE

Policy Committee To Study New Demands

Plans for launching a cost-of-living wage increase drive in New York and New Jersey shoe plants will be completed in the next few weeks, according to Isidore Rosenberg, manager of Joint Council 13, United Shoe Workers of America, CIO.

Rosenberg said the new wage demands are in accordance with a resolution adopted at the USWA national convention held in Cleveland earlier this month and calling for nationwide cost-of-living increases (L&S, Oct. 14). However, the New York union comprising eight locals had announced previous to the convention that it would seek wage increases although its contracts had another year at least to run.

The Council has formed a wage policy committee which "will study the question and make its recommendation to a meeting of the membership who have been clamoring for adjustments due to the increased cost of living," Rosenberg added. Individual locals will then present new demands to their firms.

The Council manager would not reveal what these demands would be or when the policy committee would have its recommendations ready. Present contracts with the New York Shoe Manufacturers Board of Trade, The National Association of Slipper and Playshoe Manufacturers and the Stitchdown Shoe Manufacturers Association do not expire until Nov. 15, 1951, Feb. 15, 1952, and March 3, 1952, respectively.

International Leather Show Set For Italy

The 5th International Exhibition of Leather has been scheduled for Nov. 18-26 at the Palazzo dell'Arte, Milan, Italy, where the leather-producing countries of the world will display their various leathers and leather products.

In addition to an exhibition of all varieties of leather, the show will feature displays of footwear, luggage, gloves, tanning extracts and other industry products made over the world. A special section has been designated for tanning machinery.

INTERNATIONAL SHOE MAY UP PRICES AGAIN

Report \$1 Retail Hike For Women's Lines

International Shoe Co. will shortly raise one of its women's shoe lines by \$1 at retail and announce increases in other women's lines, according to trade reports.

The \$1 retail increase will be made on a Roberts, Johnson & Rand (a division of International Shoe Co.) women's line. Women's dress shoes which now sell at \$7.95-\$11.95 at retail will be upped to \$8.95-\$12.95.

Women's casuals in the Roberts, Johnson & Rand line will be increased about 25¢ per pair at wholesale, bringing the retail price to \$7.95, it is reported. Other price increases on general lines are expected.

Women's shoe manufacturers in the St. Louis area are also expected to institute further price increases shortly.

SELBY BOOSTS PAY

Selby Shoe Co., Portsmouth, O., has granted its employees a cost-of-living wage increase of three cents per hour in a new wage agreement reached with Local 117, United Shoe Workers of America, CIO, according to Edward Hoechst, Selby's vice president and director of industrial relations.

The new contract, effective to Oct. 17, 1953, contains an escalator clause calling for a three cents per hour increase or decrease for each five-point change in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' cost-of-living index.

Average pay of the firm's approximately 2000 employees will now reach \$1.19 per hour, Hoechst stated. Other benefits include a \$1500 company-paid insurance policy for each employee.

RUEPING HIKES WAGES

Workers at the Fred Rueping Leather Co., Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin, have been granted a wage boost of five cents per hour and other benefits in a new agreement reached by officials of the company and International Fur & Leather Workers.

The new contract, which expires April 29, 1952, includes an improved insurance plan and a third week's vacation for workers with more than 10 years' service.

AUGUST FOOTWEAR OUTPUT SHOWS EFFECT OF WAR

The sudden impact of the Korean War upon shoe production is clearly revealed in the Department of Commerce's latest figures on Aug. shoe production. Footwear output during the month totaled 48 million pairs, only four percent above Aug., 1949, but 37 percent above July 1950 production.

The nation's shoe factories produced some 22 million pairs of women's shoes, sandals and playshoes during Aug., four percent more than a year ago Aug. but 34 percent above July 1950 figures. Men's footwear of these types showed a 36 percent

production rise, from 6.9 million pairs in July to 9.4 pairs in Aug. Aug. 1949 output was approximately nine million pairs.

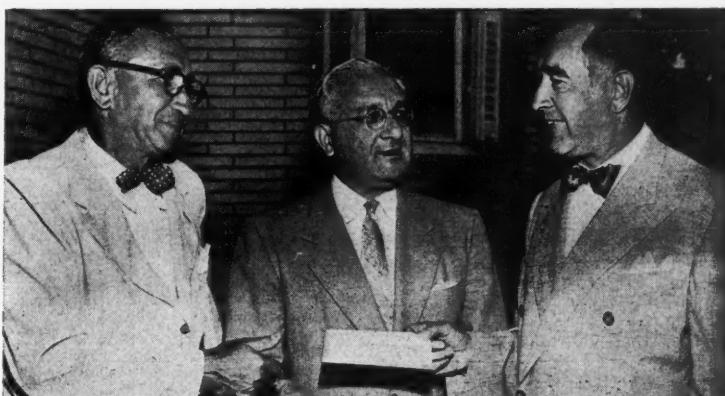
Output of housewear slippers rose 50 percent, from four million pairs in July to six million pairs in Aug. Output for Aug. a year ago was six million pairs also.

Aug. shipments totaled 51 million pairs valued at \$182 million, an average value per pair shipped of \$3.57. This compared to an average value of \$3.48 in July and \$3.49 in Aug. 1949. Following are comparative production figures:

SHOE PRODUCTION ANALYZED

| Kind of Footwear | Production (thousands of pairs) | | | Percent change August 1950 compared with | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--|----------------|
| | July 1950 | 1950 (revised) | August (revised) | July 1950 | August 1949 |
| Shoes and slippers, total | 48,412 | 35,465 | 46,438 | +37 | +4 |
| Shoes, sandals, and playshoes | 41,682 | 30,954 | 39,965 | +35 | +4 |
| Men's | 9,385 | 6,897 | 8,753 | +36 | +7 |
| Youths' and boys' | 1,777 | 1,334 | 1,808 | +33 | -2 |
| Women's | 22,273 | 16,595 | 21,467 | +34 | +4 |
| Misses' | 2,921 | 2,196 | 2,788 | +33 | +5 |
| Children's | 2,365 | 1,763 | 2,217 | +34 | +7 |
| Infants' | 1,807 | 1,316 | 1,741 | +37 | +4 |
| Babies' | 1,154 | 853 | 1,191 | +35 | -3 |
| Athletic | 351 | 263 | 319 | +33 | +10 |
| Slippers for housewear | 6,054 | 4,026 | 5,899 | +50 | +3 |
| Other footwear | 325 | 222 | 265 | +46 | +23 |

SHOE LEADERS SUPPORT BRANDEIS



Boosting the membership enrollment of the Greater Boston Chapter of Brandeis University Associates, Hyman M. Cohen, left, of Clark Shoe Co., Auburn, Me., president of the Boston group, receives membership certificates for 15 new members enrolled by Edward E. Cohen, right, of Way Leather Co., Boston leather wholesaler. Watching is Dr. Abram L. Sachar, president of the two-year-old University.

MILITARY BIDS AND AWARDS

Leather

October 30, 1950—QM-30-280-51-452, opening in New York at 1:30 p.m. 5,063 skins, leather, sheepskin, El-Morocco, tooling (various colors) and 3,703 skins leather, sheepskin, lining skiver, black and brown. Delivery to St. Louis and Edgewater, N. J., December 15-30, 1950, for the Army.

Combat Boots

October 30, 1950—QM-30-280-51-527, russet service combat boots, 252 prs., and retanned upper leather, Army, three sides (approximately 60 sq. ft., 20 sq. ft. per side.) Opening in New York at 1:30 p.m. with delivery 45 days after award of contract, for the Army.

Glove Shells

October 31, 1950—QM-11-009-51-946 for 914,100 prs. glove shells, leather, according to Specification MIL-G-822A. Opening at Chicago Quartermaster Depot at 10:00 a.m. with delivery to various destinations Dec., 1950-March, 1951.

Leather Soles

November 2, 1950—QM-30-280-51-479, Item 1 — full leather soles, 12,000 prs., and Item 2 — leather sole strips, 13" wide, 30,000 lbs. Opening in New York at 3:00 p.m. with delivery during Dec. 1950, for the Air Force.

Arctic Mittens

November 3, 1950—QM-11-009-51-818, arctic mittens, 176,160 prs., M-1949 with cotton oxford gauntlet, complete with liner. Small size in accordance with Military Specification MIL-M-834A dd. July 25, 1950 and Pattern dd. Sept. 12, 1950. Domestic Pack—32,832 prs. to Auburn, Wash., 2,400 prs. to S. Schenectady, N. Y. Overseas Pack—131,328 prs. to Auburn, 9,600 prs. to S. Schenectady. Opening at 10:00 a.m. in Chicago. Delivery Dec. 31, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1951.

Leather Gauntlets

November 6, 1950—Invitation No. F-52,005, 12,200 prs. gas welders' leather gauntlets, 5-finger style. Opening at Aviation Supply Office, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, with deliveries during Dec., 1950 and Jan., 1951.

Felt Insoles

November 6, 1950—QM-30-280-51-622, x-large felt insoles, 175,000 prs. Opening in New York at 3:30 p.m. with delivery by Jan. 1, 1951 to Marine Corps, Depots.

Various Items

November 7, 1950—Navy Invitation 7451, N-2 rubber hip boots, 12,408 prs. Opening in New York at 10:00 a.m., with delivery at 20% of each size 54 days after date of contract, 35% within 75 days, 45% within 105 days.

Navy Invitation 7452, N-2 Arctic rubber overshoes, 5 buckle; 221,200 prs. Opening at 10:00 a.m., delivery as above.

Navy Invitation 7453, N-1, Arctic overshoes, slip-resisting sole, 5 buckle, 37,000 prs. Opening at 10:00 a.m. with delivery as above.

Mitten Shells

November 13, 1950—QM-11-009-51-980, trigger finger mitten-shells, M-1948, medium, in accordance with Specification MIL-M-810A, 39,400 prs. domestic pack, 157,600 prs. overseas pack. Opening at Chicago at 10:00 a.m. with delivery to Auburn General Depot, Auburn, Wash., during Jan.-March, 1951.

LATEST BID OPENINGS

Converse Rubber Corp., Malden, Mass., was low bidder this week at Navy Bid Opening No. 7383 calling for 7782 pairs of women's gymnasium shoes. Converse Corp's bid of \$1.64 per pair was lowest of six bidders.

Other bids were as follows: Endicott-Johnson Corp., Endicott, N. Y., all at \$1.81; Hood Rubber Co., Waterbury, Mass., all at \$1.87; Randolph Manufacturing Co., Inc., Randolph, Mass., all at \$1.77; U. S. Rubber Co., Naugatuck, Conn., all at \$1.96; and Bristol Manufacturing Corp., Bristol, R. I., all at \$1.89.

Randolph Manufacturing Co., Inc. was low bidder on Navy Invitation No. 7384 calling for 14,980 pairs of men's gymnasium shoes. Randolph bid at \$1.89 per pair.

Other bidders were: Hood Rubber Co., all at \$2.02; U. S. Rubber Co., all at \$1.89; Bristol Manufacturing Corp., Item A at \$2.02 and Item B at \$2.05 or all at \$2.035. Item A called for 5,278 pairs while Item B for 9,702 pairs.

United Last Co., Boston, turned in low bid on QM-30-280-51-558 covering 5,148 pairs of safety lasts. United's bid was \$3.418 per pair.

Other bidders were: Sterling Last Corp., New York, all at \$3.82; Morton Last Co., Cincinnati, O., all at \$3.645; Jones & Vining, Inc., Brockton, Mass., all at \$3.147; Vulcan Corp., Cincinnati, all at \$3.545; Western Last Co., St. Louis, all at \$4.03; and F. W. Stuart Co., Inc., Beverly, Mass., sizes up to 12 at \$3.87 and sizes 12½-15 at \$4.15.

The Chicago Quartermaster has made the following awards on bid invitation 51-422 for some 500,000 pairs gloves, shells, leather: Hansen Glove Corp., Milwaukee, 150,600 pairs for \$301,200; Northwest Glove Co., Winona, Mich., 60,300 pairs for \$113,767; Independent Glove Co., Chicago, 160,800 pairs for \$291,332; and Illinois Glove Co., Champaign, Ill., 109,500 pairs for \$216,310.

E. J. Givren Shoe Co., Inc., Rockland, Mass., was lone bidder on QM-30-280-51-521 covering 118 orthopedic shoes. Givren bid \$9.47 per shoe, 1/10 of 1 percent in 10 days.

Army Awards Lea. Items, Shoepacs

The New York Quartermaster Procurement Office has awarded contract to The Rubber Corp. of California, Garden Grove, Cal., on QM-30-280-51-343 covering 271,836 pairs of shoepacs, 12", M-1944 at \$7.92 per pair. Original directive quantity was 226,008 pairs.

Awards on QM-30-280-51-180 covering various leather items were made as follows: Items 1 and 2, 1579 El Morocco sheepskins, green and red, to American Handicrafts Co., Inc., East Orange, N. J., at 39c per sq. ft.

Items 3 and 4, 1500 skins, sheepskin lining skivers, black and brown, to Continental Leather Import Co., New York City, at 16½c per sq. ft.

Item 5, 1779 pkgs. leather lacing needles, 12's, at 56c a pack to C. S. Osborne & Co., Harrison, N. J.

Item 6, 200 leather modelling tools, type 5, to McPherson Leather Co., San Francisco, Cal., at 30c each.

Craddock-Terry Wins Oxford Order

Craddock-Terry Shoe Corp., Lynchburg, Va., has been awarded contract on QM-30-280-51-368 covering 13,836 pairs of women's white leather oxfords. Award was made on the firm's low bid of \$5.20 per pair. Procurement is for the Army.

KEITH TO CLOSE ARMSTRONG PLANT

Geo. E. Keith Co., Brockton men's and women's shoe manufacturer, will close the plant of D. Armstrong & Co., Inc., Rochester, N. Y., subsidiary of Keith on Nov. 1, according to president Harold C. Keith.

Keith told a recent meeting of "Walkover" salesmen in Brockton that the sales office, sample room and research departments of Armstrong & Co., which manufactures women's high grade shoes under the "Balance of Motion" trademark, will remain in Rochester. All factory operations will be transferred "because of economic reasons" to Keith's No. 11 plant in Brockton.

The fiscal year ending Oct. 31 will show "gains in all departments" for the company, Keith stated. He added that, barring another world war, 1951 "should be a prosperous year for all of us."

British Shoe Experts Here For Study

Seventeen British shoe specialists arrived in New York Oct. 26 to study operations of the U. S. shoe industry in all its phases, the ECA announced this week.

Sponsored by the Anglo-American Council on Productivity, the special-

ists will spend six weeks investigating plants operating in Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, New York and in the New England area. Special attention will be given to factory management, production control, labor relations, shoe design, distribution and standardization.

Members of the team representing British management, labor and technical experts in the boot and shoe industry include George W. Marriott, Alan Entwistle, Albert E. Rice, Reginald E. Brown, Henry Clements, Tom Wakeling, John E. J. Percival, Frederick C. Jex, Frederick W. Wooton, John S. Hitch, James Cradford, William B. Royce, Malcolm Nash, Thomas A. Lawrence, John L. Price, Miss May Goodwin and Anthony Barker.

The specialists are scheduled to leave the U. S. on Dec. 8.

Boston Shoe Club To Meet November 15

The Boston Boot and Shoe Club has announced it will hold the opening meeting of its 62nd annual season on Wednesday evening, Nov. 15, in the Imperial Ballroom of Boston's Hotel Statler.

Guest speaker at the meeting will be Dr. Murray Banks, psychologist and humorist, who will talk on "Things My Mother Never Told Me."

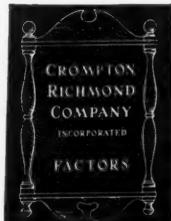
Joyce To Direct Six ECA Divisions

Appointment of William H. Joyce, Jr., founder and head of Joyce, Inc., Pasadena, Cal., women's playshoe and casual manufacturer, as Assistant Administrator for Operations of the Economic Cooperation Administration has been announced by William C. Foster, new ECA Administrator.

Joyce, who succeeds C. Tyler Wood, will direct activities of six ECA divisions. These are the Technical Assistance, Food and Agriculture, Industry, Strategic Materials, Transportation and Program Methods Control Divisions. He will also be responsible for the operational activities of the Office of Small Business.

Joyce's appointment to the ECA was announced by Paul G. Hoffman just previous to his retirement on Oct. 1 as ECA Administrator. The shoe firm head is now on a leave of absence as president and chairman of the board of Joyce, Inc., which has six factories in the U. S. and 11 more in other parts of the world, including Europe, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, Mexico and South America.

PRODUCTIVE INVESTMENT



It isn't the scale of investment that makes a business prosper. It's the way capital resources are put to work.

Crompton Factoring Service and alert management make a hard-hitting combination...because they team up to galvanize production and distribution of needed goods.

Crompton receivables financing immediately strengthens the cash position of a business...widens the working capital base...stimulates capital turnover. Dollars that are busy doing a job just can't go to seed.

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The Human Factor

CROMPTON-RICHMOND CO., INC.

1071 Avenue of the Americas, New York 18, N. Y.

CIO RALLIES LEATHER WORKERS

Launches Drive In Peabody Area

This week the CIO opened its long-expected campaign to regain the leather workers lost from its roster last Spring when the International Fur and Leather Workers "resigned" just prior to being expelled. On Wednesday night, Oct. 25, CIO organizers held a public rally in Peabody, center of the Massachusetts tanning area.

Despite IFLWU's attempts to keep its members away, more than 1000 leather workers turned up for the meeting, later termed "highly

successful" by Hugh Thompson, National CIO Representative from New York.

Presiding over the meeting was CIO regional organizer Robert Davis who has been selected by the CIO to spearhead the membership drive. Close to 11,000 workers, many members of IFLWU which has been area bargaining agent for years, are the immediate stake.

Precedent for the Massachusetts organizing drive was set recently in Gloversville, N. Y., where IFLWU was ousted by the CIO as worker bargaining agent in some 17 glove leather tanneries. The Communist-led leather union still is all-powerful in other tanning centers throughout Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Illinois and Wisconsin.

COMPARATIVE LEATHER PRODUCTION FIGURES

CATTLEHIDE LEATHERS
(In 1,000 hides)

| | Total | Cattle | Hides | Sole | Upper | Beltin- | Harness | Bag | Case | Uphol- | All | Others ^{**} |
|-------|-------|--------|-------|------|-------|---------|---------|------|------|--------|-----|----------------------|
| | | | | | | cal | drylery | | | stry | | |
| 1939 | 22095 | 7833 | 12124 | 531 | 477 | 387 | 510 | 233 | | | | |
| 1940 | 21070 | 7032 | 11582 | 675 | 524 | 382 | 601 | 272 | | | | |
| 1941 | 28121 | 9080 | 15600 | 1064 | 650 | 581 | 699 | 448 | | | | |
| 1942 | 30828 | 10432 | 15598 | 1213 | 637 | 936 | 386 | 1625 | | | | |
| 1943 | 25656 | 8290 | 13073 | 1292 | 632 | 800 | 231 | 1338 | | | | |
| 1944 | 26152 | 8420 | 13002 | 1439 | 613 | 629 | 232 | 1818 | | | | |
| 1945 | 27566 | 8525 | 14567 | 1324 | 556 | 572 | 272 | 1750 | | | | |
| 1946 | 26905 | 8510 | 14057 | 1158 | 510 | 827 | 378 | 1465 | | | | |
| 1947 | 28824 | 8924 | 15529 | 1134 | 440 | 813 | 529 | 1455 | | | | |
| 1948 | 26070 | 8016 | 14213 | 1004 | 270 | 760 | 594 | 1213 | | | | |
| 1949 | 23332 | 6384 | 13753 | 759 | 227 | 674 | 461 | 1074 | | | | |
| 1950 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 1880 | 492 | 1124 | 50 | 14 | 60 | 48 | 92 | | | | |
| Feb. | 1955 | 528 | 1152 | 52 | 15 | 62 | 50 | 96 | | | | |
| Mar. | 2115 | 585 | 1229 | 54 | 17 | 69 | 53 | 108 | | | | |
| April | 1853 | 497 | 1069 | 52 | 17 | 62 | 50 | 106 | | | | |
| May | 1949 | 521 | 1129 | 49 | 19 | 61 | 55 | 115 | | | | |
| June | 2070 | 528 | 1223 | 60 | 18 | 60 | 60 | 121 | | | | |
| July | 1698 | 402 | 1012 | 57 | 17 | 60 | 54 | 96 | | | | |
| Aug. | 2298 | 546 | 1399 | 77 | 18 | 78 | 63 | 117 | | | | |

^{**}Data from 1942 forward not directly comparable with previous data.

CALF, KIP, GOAT, KID, SHEEP AND LAMB LEATHERS
(In 1,000 hides)

| | Calf, | Goat, | Kid | Sheep, | Sheep Leathers | | | | All | Others |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|----------------|--------|-------|--------|-----|--------|
| | | | | | Total | Glove, | Gar- | Shear- | | |
| 1939 | 14027 | 40419 | 38914 | 18420 | 11604 | 2563 | 6327 | | | |
| 1940 | 11387 | 37697 | 37920 | 17225 | 9966 | 3322 | 6907 | | | |
| 1941 | 13098 | 45373 | 51915 | 22542 | 14166 | 5779 | 9428 | | | |
| 1942 | 12264 | 41127 | 53629 | 19459 | 14983 | 9596 | 9591 | | | |
| 1943 | 11112 | 37351 | 59315 | 20415 | 15474 | 11210 | 12216 | | | |
| 1944 | 10930 | 34653 | 53976 | 20370 | 15040 | 6690 | 11876 | | | |
| 1945 | 11636 | 24026 | 52450 | 17294 | 17153 | 6508 | 11495 | | | |
| 1946 | 10836 | 24123 | 47999 | 15781 | 13349 | 9923 | 8918 | | | |
| 1947 | 12471 | 37188 | 36535 | 11265 | 12498 | 5409 | 7363 | | | |
| 1948 | 10480 | 37970 | 33492 | 10419 | 11392 | 4993 | 6688 | | | |
| 1949 | 10173 | 34774 | 28644 | 8411 | 9998 | 4498 | 5737 | | | |
| 1950 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 927 | 3016 | 2193 | 552 | 815 | 338 | 488 | | | |
| Feb. | 885 | 2960 | 2675 | 860 | 934 | 376 | 505 | | | |
| Mar. | 902 | 3507 | 2257 | 834 | 858 | 870 | 495 | | | |
| April | 814 | 2821 | 2625 | 915 | 874 | 395 | 441 | | | |
| May | 829 | 3206 | 2720 | 916 | 878 | 449 | 447 | | | |
| June | 923 | 3329 | 2653 | 866 | 806 | 468 | 513 | | | |
| July | 584 | 2670 | 1989 | 655 | 625 | 390 | 319 | | | |
| Aug. | 1052 | 3260 | 3373 | 1174 | 1084 | 512 | 603 | | | |

The CIO must first sign a majority of workers in individual plants, then petition the NLRB by 60 days before April 1, 1951 when IFLWU's present contract expires, to hold an election.

Popular Price Shoe Now At \$12.95 Top

The price range of popular price shoes, formerly fixed at a top of \$10.95 retail, has been increased to \$12.95 since the Korean War, according to Maxwell Field, executive vice president of the New England Shoe and Leather Association. Field is also co-manager of the semi-annual Popular Price Shoe Show of America.

Women's shoes in the popular price field which formerly sold in volume from \$4-\$5 now bring \$5-\$6. Men's shoes in the \$6.00-\$11.00 price bracket which accounted for 59.6 percent of men's shoe production last year now sell for \$7.00-\$12.00. Similar advances have been made in youths' and children's footwear.

Although many shoe manufacturers have not yet announced 2nd round price increases, Field says they will probably do so by the Advance Spring Shoe Showing to be held Oct. 15-19 at the Hotels Statler and Touraine, Boston.

Heads Holly Committee



Joseph W. Holmes, president of United Last Co., Boston, recently appointed chairman of the Holly Memorial Committee which will make the third annual award of The T. Kenyon Holly Memorial Fund plaque next month. The award will be presented during the annual banquet of The 210 Associated Nov. 28 at the Waldorf-Astoria to the person selected for "distinguished service to the shoe and leather industry."

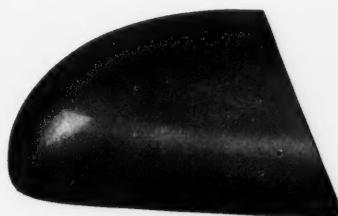
Winguard 400

A NEW SAFETY TOE ARCHITECTURE

WINGUARD 400 is the first of three new steel toe styles planned for release in 1950 and 1951, all having crescent-shaped lateral edges which stanchion the toe against rearward inclination under vertical impact. WINGUARD'S unique rear edge develops triangular wing-like buttresses along the sole line which remain in supporting position behind the central back edge area of the toe dome no matter how exaggerated shoe toe spring becomes in the course of wear.

400 is a dress type streamlined in profile to meet the demand for smart oxford styling without sacrifice of essential toe protection. WINGUARDS are SAFER in all shoes where toe safety is the first consideration. Write for descriptive bulletin.

WINGUARDS
are patented.



SAFETY BOX TOE COMPANY

812 STATLER BUILDING, BOSTON 16, MASSACHUSETTS

SALES AGENTS:

UNITED STATES: BECKWITH MANUFACTURING COMPANY, DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CANADA: BECKWITH BOX TOE, LIMITED, SHERBROOKE, QUEBEC

Deaths

Edward H. Taylor

... 42, *shoe foreman*, died recently in an Athol, Mass., hospital of injuries received while serving with the Flying Tigers in China during World War II. He was most recently employed as a shoe foreman with the J. F. McElwain plant in Athol. He leaves his wife, Nellie; a daughter, Barbara; his father, Edward Taylor; two brothers, James and William; and three sisters.

Benjamin E. Newhall

... 65, *shoe machinery engineer*, died Oct. 19 at Lynn Hospital, Lynn, Mass. He had been employed as a research engineer at United Shoe Machinery Corp. and was a member of the firm's Quarter Century Club. He was active in organizational affairs. He leaves his wife and a sister.

Henry L. Pfeiffer

... 82, *retired shoe manufacturer*, died in Natick, Mass., on Oct. 17. A native of South Natick, he headed the Pfeiffer Shoe Mfg. Co. until his retirement some 25 years ago. He was a Mason. Survivors include his wife, Eleanor; a son, Henry B.; and a daughter, Edna; and three sisters.

Louis C. Gruenkemeyer

... *shoe superintendent*, died recently in St. Louis. A former superintendent of the Brown Shoe Co. plant in Salem, Ill., he was with the firm's upper leather department in St. Louis at the time of his death. He also served as a foreman at several of Brown's other factories and was with the company for nearly a quarter century. He leaves his wife; a daughter, Norma H.; and two sons, Howard and Louis H.

Fred C. Monk

... 75, *tannery superintendent*, died recently in Cincinnati, O., after a long illness. Monk was associated with the former American Oak Leather Co. in Cincinnati for 35 years before opening his own business 12 years ago under the name of Monk Leather Co. He retired several years ago due to ill health. He leaves two sons and a sister.

A. G. Minner

... *hide and skin dealer*, died of a heart attack recently in St. Louis. At the time of his death, he was vice president of Minner & Co., Inc., St. Louis dealer in hides and skins, furs, wool, etc. He had been associated with the firm for the past 22 years. Originally from Milwaukee, he was associated there with Minner Bros. for closer to 25 years. His wife died

about 10 years ago. Of his two sons, one died at an early age and the other was killed in action during the last war. He leaves four brothers and two sisters.

Czech Shoe Imports No More A Threat

Imports of women's shoes from Czechoslovakia during Aug. totaled only 41,184 pairs valued at \$45,504, the New England Shoe and Leather Association reports. The Association indicates that the unfair competitive threat posed by Czech shoe imports has been ended since imported pairage for the month did not include any of the controversial cemented types. All were cemented molded sole shoes.

Imports of these same type shoes during July totaled 41,364 pairs valued at \$46,947. Total imports of molded sole shoes from Czechoslovakia for the year 1949 equalled only 17,913 pairs valued at \$24,377.

The Association also reports that total imports of all types men's shoes from England for the period Jan.-Aug. 1950 amounted to 221,406 pairs valued at \$1,149,969 or an average price of \$5.19 per pair. This represents an increase of 44.8 percent over all of 1949.

DERMABATE COMPOUNDS LIQUID EXTRACTS

HEMLOCK . OAK . MANGROVE
STAINLESS SUMAC . ORDINARY SUMAC
QUEBRACHO . RAPID TAN "G"
SPECIAL DIPPING EXTRACTS

LEATHER
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ALWAYS

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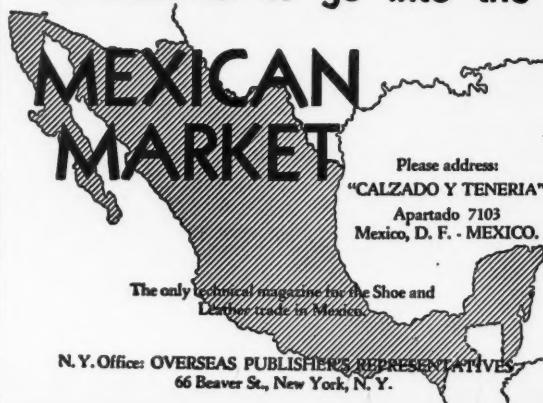
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CHAPTER XII

Characteristics of Demand for Leather

Demand for Leather Derived. Difference between Demand and Consumption. Total Demand for All Cattlehide Leathers. Sole Leather Demand. Sole Leather Offal. Demand for Belting Leather. Harness Leather. Trends in Side Upper Leather Demand. Patent Leather. Cattlehide Upper Leather Splits. Bag, Case and Strap Leather. Upholstery Leather. Miscellaneous Types. Buying Movements in Cattlehide Leathers. Elasticity of Demand for Leather. Foreign Trade in Leather.

CHAPTER XIII

Competition in Cattlehide Tanning

Competition in Industry Generally Imperfect. Hide Market Competitive. Economic Structure of the Tanning Industry Fosters Competition. Cattlehide Leather Competes with Other Leathers. Substitutes Compete with Cattlehide Leathers. Policies of Consuming Industries Foster Competition. Experiments in Government Control of Prices in World War I. Earnings Reflect Keen Competition. Objective Views of Government Agencies on Competition in Tanning Industry.

CHAPTER XIV

Dynamics of Cattlehide and Leather Prices

Summary of Supply and Demand Factors. Measurement of Price Variability. Influence of Futures Trading on Hide Price Formation. Demand Influence on Hide Prices. Price Theory in Hides and Leather. Application of Price Making Analysis to Tanned Leather.

CHAPTER XV

Cattlehide Leather Tanning During World War II

Section 1

Demand for Cattlehide Leather During World War II

Leather Production. Domestic Hide Supplies. Hide Imports. World Cattle Numbers. Tanning Materials. Labor. Shoe Production. Foreign Trade in Leather and Shoes. Earnings in the Tanning Industry. Hide, Leather and Shoe Prices.

Section 2

Domestic Controls on Cattlehides and Leather

The National Defense Advisory Commission and Successor Agencies. Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply and Successor Agencies. Labor Controls. Priorities. Office of Civilian Supply. Miscellaneous Controls. Industry Cooperation. Some Questions of Policy.

Section 3

Establishment of Import and Export Controls on Hides and Leather

Office of Economic Warfare. Conflicts between British and American Purchasing Methods. Foreign Hide Inspection Program. Coordination of Foreign Purchases. Pressures on Control Plan. Summary of Controls at Beginning of 1946. Division of Opinion on Continuation of Controls. Discontinuance of International Controls. Conflicts Between Domestic and International Markets. Necessity for Integrated Control Mechanism.

Bibliography

Subject Index

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LEATHER MARKETS FAIRLY QUIET DURING CHICAGO SHOW WEEK

Most Selections Hold Firm But Volume Buying Is Noticeably Lacking

Sole leathers quiet. Calf moderate. Sides find some business. Tanners look for activity after Shoe Fair.

Sole Leathers Quiet

A particularly slow week for Boston sole leather tanners who have recently found going more difficult. Main reason is in-between period. Shoe manufacturers have fair inventory on hand, waiting till after Shoe Fair for further buying. Actually, the same old market story today despite inflationary trend and unsettled world market. Prices not as firm as last month but then again, leather not too plentiful. Prices unchanged from last week: factory bends bring 78-80c for under 8 irons, 70-72c for 8-9 irons, and 63-66c for 9-10 irons.

Light Bends: 78-80c

Medium Bends: 68-72c

Heavy Bends: 58-63c

Sole leather tanners of Philadelphia say findings are "terrible"; just as bad if not worse than last week. Factory leathers have settled down to fairly active business and factory bends doing reasonably well. A good average price quotation for medium weight factory bends is 72-73c. There is still a great shortage in the light weights. Bellies and heads still in demand and selling at 32c for heads and 48c for bellies. Demand for bellies is constant because they are now used for innersoles.

Sole Offal Dull

"No change" report Boston sole leather offal tanners. List prices remain unchanged but here and there a sale is made below them. As a rule, tanners prefer to hold leather at list rather than sell below, figuring sales will pick up again after Fair. All point to large military shoe orders as prop for prices. Hide market also strong and active this week. For most part, cow bellies bring 50c and down, steer bellies 49c and down. Most sales of latter a cent below this. Shoulders, heads and shanks unchanged.

Bellies: Steers: 46-48c; Cows:

48-50c

Single shoulders, heads on:

Light, 58-65c, Heavy, 49-54c

Double rough shoulders: 72-80c

Heads: 29-32c

Fore Shanks: 38-40c

Hind Shanks: 39-43c

Calf Leathers Slow

This was a fairly inactive week for Boston calf leather tanners who find themselves combating in-between season as well as price resistance. Most calf tanners expect sales to pick up shortly, point to fact that rawstock has shown no signs of easing and shoe manufacturers must buy eventually. Many manufacturers bought heavily in first three months after Korean outbreak, now waiting for developments before going heavily into Spring lines. Others have been priced out of calf

Price and Trends of Leather

| KIND OF LEATHER | THIS WEEK | MONTH AGO | YEAR AGO | 1949 HIGH |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| CALF (Men's HM) | 1.10-1.30 | 1.10-1.30 | 90-1.06 | 95-1.15 |
| CALF (Women's) | 1.00-1.25 | 1.00-1.25 | 85-1.05 | 90-1.10 |
| CALF SUEDE | 1.20-1.35 | 1.20-1.35 | 1.00-1.20 | 1.05-1.30 |
| KID (Black Glazed) | 80-1.17; 1.25 | 80-1.17 | 70-1.00 | 70-1.00 |
| KID SUEDE | 80-93 | 80-93 | 70-90 | 70-90 |
| PATENT (Extreme) | 56-74 | 56-71 | 48-56 | 56-66 |
| SHEEP (Russet Linings) | 19-28 | 19-28 | 18-22 | 19-23 |
| KIPS (Corrected Reg. Finish) | 64-73 | 64-71 | 57-61 | 57-61 |
| EXTREMES (Corrected Reg. Finish) | 54-62 | 54-62 | 43-53 | 48-53 |
| WORK ELK (Corrected) | 57-62 | 55-60 | 44-50 | 52-56 |
| SOLE (Light Bends) | 78-82 | 78-83 | 64-66 | 68-72 |
| BELLIES | 46-50 | 47-52 | 40-43 | 44-48 |
| SHOULDERS (Dble. Rgh.) | 72-80 | 72-80 | 60-67 | 64-72 |
| SPLITS (Lt. Suede) | 36-41 | 36-41 | 37-43 | 39-44 |
| SPLITS (Finished Linings) | 20-26 | 20-26 | 20-23 | 22-24 |
| SPLITS (Gussets) | 17-22 | 17-22 | 17-20 | 19-20 |
| WELTING (1/8 x 1/4) | 11 | 11 | 9 | 9 1/2-10 |
| LIGHT NATIVE COWS | 34-35 | 33 1/2-34 1/2 | 24-27 1/2 | 29 1/2 |

All prices quoted are the range on best selection of standard tannages using quality rawstock.

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market, turned to kip sides. Women's smooth calf listed at \$1.20 and down for standard tannages; men's at \$1.25 and down. Suede generally bring up to \$1.35; volume well below this.

Men's weights: B \$1.10-1.25; C \$1.04-1.20; D .94-1.14; X .89-1.04; XX .85c

Women's weights: \$1.05 to 1.20; C 97c-1.07; D 90c-1.02; X 80c-96c; XX 65c-78c

Suede: \$1.25-1.35N; 1.20-1.25N; 1.10-1.15N

Kid Hits Lull

Kid leather tanners of Philadelphia report a definite lull in business. Up to last week, the slack was usual between-season dull period, and actually much more active than in past few years. Right now, there should be considerable activity starting up in Spring and Summer colors. No one can explain the fact that this has not yet materialized to any degree. In suedes, blue is the only color for which tanners are booking orders. Of course, some black is selling, and some brown; and there is some talk of a new shade of balenciaga.

Tanners are finding that manufacturers are holding back on white. Because of the Korean situation they had bought white very early. Others feel white shantungs and linens will compete with leather, and this is cutting into the sales of white suede. Suede prices quoted from 35c to 95c with some sales in all grades.

Glazed still outselling suede in black and there are some sales in brown and blue. However, for a real high style shoe, suede is still preferred. Prices unchanged. Sales mostly in the grades up to \$1.10. While price lists still show quotations up to last week's high, business is dull above the \$1.10 mark.

Linings still doing quite well within price range quoted last week. There is some slipper business, and some sales to cowboy boot men who still buy a variety of colors. This leather showed an increased price with a range of 35c to 75c quoted—the top price a full 10c higher than previously quoted.

Very little reported in crushed; some tanners who don't often do anything in this type of leather have recently had a small amount of business in it.

Current Average Prices

Suede: 35c-95c

Glazed: 32c-1.10; 1.25

Linings: 26-60c

Slipper: 30-65c

Crushed: 35-75c

Satin Mats: 50c-1.20

Sheep Leathers Active

Boston sheep leather tanners find Show week has little effect on them. Sales continue at moderately active level with tanners busy filling old orders, still taking good new orders. Southwestern cowboy boot manufacturers keep this market active. Russet linings the big seller; bring 28c and down with good specialty skins at 26c, shoe linings at 21-22c down to about 18c. Boot linings bring 25c. Colored vegetable linings do moderate business at 28c and down.

Russet linings: 28, 26, 24, 22, 20, 18, 16, 15c.

Colored vegetable linings: 28, 26, 24, 21, 19, 17, 15c

Hat sweat: 29, 27, 25, 23c

Chrome linings: 34, 32, 30, 28, 26c

Garment grains: 27, 25, 23, 21c

Garment suede: 28, 26, 24, 22c

Sides Mark Time

The side leather market in Boston has little new to report. Sales have slowed down still further this week as expected. Activity on packer hide market assures no easing of prices. Tanners actually marking time until after Shoe Fair, look for good sales spurt within next few weeks. Most tanners have purchased good amount of rawstock, are in good position to handle whatever demand develops. Many feel that even if price controls come soon, they cannot do more than peg prices near present levels. Few, if any, stand to lose, they feel, by building stocks at this time.

Heavy Aniline Extremes: B 64-67; C 63-64; D 56-59c

Other Finishes

Corrected Kips: B 65-73; C 63-71; D 61-69; X 55-62c

Corrected Extremes: 54-62; 52-58; 50-56; 47-53c

Corrected Large: 53-58; 51-55;

49-53; 46-50c

Work Elk: 57-62; 53-58; 49-54c

Bag, Case and Strap

With further strength shown in raw stock markets, tanners indicated no price changes. In fact prices may work up slightly higher, depending upon further developments in raw material market. Demand has quieted down for most selections, although tanners claim bookings still coming in. Prices quoted as follows:

2 1/2 ounce case 53, 50, 47c

3 ounce case 56, 53, 50c

4 ounce strap 66, 63, 60c

5 ounce strap 70, 67, 64c

6 ounce strap 73, 70, 67c

Work Glove Leathers Steady

Glove splits, for the work glove industry, quoted unchanged, according to tanners in Midwest. Based on a light-medium weight, No. 1's, 2's and 3's quoted 21, 20 and 19c, respectively. Tanners report demand satisfactory, sales consummated every day. There is talk that higher prices are paid, such as 22, 21 and 20c, but later reports state these were better than average quality, did not represent market in entirety.

Horse shanks and cow bellies quoted unchanged, with prices as follows:

Horse Shanks (40-45 avg. ft. per doz.) 28-30c per sq. ft.
Horse Shanks (50-55 avg. ft. per doz.) 29-31c per sq. ft.
Cow Bellies (40-45 avg. ft. per doz.) 28-30c per sq. ft.
Cow Bellies (50-55 avg. ft. per doz.) 30-32c per sq. ft.
Shoulder Splits (No. 1, 2, 3) (Per Pound) 60, 50, 40c
Glove Splits (L-M) (No. 1, 2, 3) 21, 20, 19c

Garment Leathers Firm

Tanners in Midwest claim prices on garment leathers firm, despite weakness in some markets. A weaker market in horsehides, but tanners quote

steady leather prices around 36 to 38c for average grades. Better lots quoted up to 40 and 42c, depending on quality.

Other selections, such as suede garment leather and grain garment leather, are quoted unchanged from a week ago.

Suede garment leather, 32, 30, 28c
Grain garment leather, 31, 29, 26c
Horsehide leather (average), 36-38c
Better horsehides grades up to
40-42c

Belting Leathers Wanted

Philadelphia belting leather tanners report still some activity with sales made in all weights. Shortage in light weights continues, as does the demand. Prices available on butt bends unchanged since last week. Shoulders show considerable activity as they are in great demand. A figure of 60-62c given as an average.

Curriers say they are still "enjoying very nice business." No orders are accepted over 30 days in advance and curriers are still forced to allocate the stock among customers. Prices unchanged. Curried shoulders very active but there is variation in price to the degree that no quotation available.

AVERAGE BELTING PRICES

| Butt Bends: | 2nd | 3rd |
|-----------------|-----------|-----|
| No. 2 ex. heavy | 1.05-1.09 | |
| No. 2 ex. light | 1.15 | |
| No. 3 ex. heavy | 1.01-1.03 | |
| No. 3 ex. light | 1.11-1.12 | |

AVERAGE CURRIED BELTING PRICES

| Curried belting | Best Selec. | 2nd | 3rd |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Butt bends | 1.36-1.50 | 1.32-1.43 | 1.26-1.34 |
| Centers 12" | 1.60-1.85 | 1.55-1.78 | 1.30-1.41 |
| Centers 24"-28" | 1.61-1.82 | 1.55-1.75 | 1.30-1.41 |
| Centers 20" | 1.57-1.76 | 1.50-1.70 | 1.30-1.39 |
| Wide sides | 1.27-1.42 | 1.24-1.37 | 1.18-1.29 |
| Narrow sides | 1.21-1.28 | 1.17-1.20 | 1.10-1.13 |

Premiums to be added: ex. heavy 8-10c; light 8c; ex light 12c-15c.

Splits Spotty

Another week of spotty sales in Boston splits market. This time, tanners not too concerned, feel they have not yet realized full possibilities of demand to come. Active hide market bolsters belief that prices will remain at present levels. The question is: when will real volume buying begin.

Light suede: 36-41; 34-39; 32-36c
Heavy suede: 43-47; 41-43; 38-40c
Retan sole: 40, 38, 35, 33, 30c
Finished linings: 19-21; 20-23; 22-26c

Gussets: 17-22c
Pickled Heavy, 14-15c lb.; Light, 12½-13½c lb.
Blue splits: Heavy, 15-17c lb.; Light, 13-14c lb.

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Glove Leathers Spotty

Business spotty. Table cut gloves in poor demand with this branch of the industry working on part time. Cheaper made gloves selling fairly well.

Domestic suedes up two cents a

foot in ladies weights. New prices are 42c and 28c. Domestic men's grey suedes getting scarcer and prices higher. One firm quoting 38c for a good selection. Strictly number ones for unlined gloves bring 42c.

Good demand for Irans and Iracs in

black, brown and tan. Prices range from 21c to 28c. The high price of domestics is making this leather popular.

Mochas scarce and high. Prices range from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per foot. Raw stock has been so completely cleaned out that mocha tanners have closed their beam shops. Some replacements reported on the way but these will not be available for at least six months.

Tanning Oils Firm

Tanning Oils market firm and prices unchanged for the most part. Sulphonated Tallow advanced. Raw Tanning Materials and Tanning Extracts quotations unchanged this week.

Raw Tanning Materials

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Dvi-Dvi, shipment, bags | ..... | ..... |
| Wattle bark, ton | ..... | ..... |
| Sumac, 28% leaf | ..... | \$84.00 |
| Myrobalans, J. 1s | ..... | \$46.50-\$47.50 |
| (Crushed \$73.00) J. 2s | ..... | \$38.00 |
| R. 1s | ..... | \$47.00-\$48.00 |
| Valonia Cups, 30-32% guaranteed | ..... | \$62.00 |
| Valonia Beards | ..... | \$78.50-\$82.50 |
| Mangrove Bark, So. Am. | ..... | \$52.00-\$54.00 |

Tanning Extracts

| | | |
|---|-------|-----------------|
| Chestnut Extract, Liquid (basis 25% tannin), f.o.b. plant | ..... | ..... |
| Tank cars | ..... | \$71.00-\$72.00 |
| Barrels c.l. | ..... | \$69.00-\$70.00 |
| Barrels, l.c.l. | ..... | 4.13 |
| Chestnut Extract, Powdered (basis 60% tannin), f.o.b. plant | ..... | 4.65 |
| Bags, c.l. | ..... | 3.45 |
| Bags, l.c.l. | ..... | 9.78 |
| Cutch, solid Borneo, 55% tannin, plus duty | ..... | .06% |
| Gambier Extract, 25% tannin, bbls. | ..... | .09% .12 |
| Hemlock extract, 25% tannin, tk. cars, f.o.b. wks. | ..... | .0525 |
| Bbls. c.l. | ..... | .05% |
| Oak bark extract, 25% tannin, lb. bbls. 6 1/2-8%, tks. | ..... | .06% |
| Quebracho extract | ..... |  |
| Solid, ord. basis 63% tannin, c.l. plus duty | ..... | 8-5/18 |
| Solid, clar. basis 64% tannin, c.l. | ..... | .09 |
| Liquid, basis 35% tannin, bbls. | ..... | .16% |
| Ground extract | ..... | .07% |
| Wattle bark extract, solid (plus duty) | ..... |  |
| Powdered super spruce, bags, c.l. | ..... |  |
| .051/2; l.c.l. | ..... | .05% |
| Spruce extract, tks. f.o.b. wks. | ..... | .01% |
| Powdered valonia extract, 63% tannin | ..... | .09% |

Tanners' Oils

| | | |
|---|-------|------------|
| Cod oil, Nfsl., drums | ..... | 1.05 |
| Castor oil No. 1 C.P. drs. l.c.l. | ..... | .26 |
| Sulphonated castor oil, 75% | ..... | .23 |
| Cod, sulphonated, pure 25% moisture | ..... | .13 |
| Cod, sulphonated, 25% added mineral | ..... | .12 |
| Cod, sulphonated, 50% added mineral | ..... | .11 |
| Linseed oil tks. c.l. zone 1 | ..... | .152 |
| drums, l.c.l. | ..... | .174 |
| Neatsfoot, 20° C.T. | ..... | .36 |
| Neatsfoot, 30° C.T. | ..... | .34 |
| Neatsfoot, 40° C.T. | ..... | .27 |
| Neatsfoot, prime, drums, C.L. | ..... | .22 1/4 |
| L.C.L. | ..... | .23% |
| Neatsfoot, sulphonated, 75% | ..... | .20 |
| Olive, denatured, drs. gal. | ..... | .275 |
| Waterless Moellon | ..... | .14 |
| Artificial Moellon, 25% moisture | ..... | .13 |
| Charmois Moellon | ..... | .11 1/2-12 |
| Common degras | ..... | .10-12 |
| Neutral Degras | ..... | .21-22 |
| Sulphonated Tallow, 75% | ..... | .14-14% |
| Sulphonated tallow, 50% | ..... | .10-10% |
| Sponging compound | ..... | .12% |
| Split oil | ..... | .11-12 |
| Sulphonated sperm, 25% water | ..... | .19 |
| Petroleum Oils, 200 seconds visc. tks. f.o.b. | ..... | .13% |
| Petroleum Oils, 150 seconds visc. tks. f.o.b. | | .14 |
| Petroleum Oils, 100 seconds visc. tks. f.o.b. | | .13 |
| Quotations withdrawn | | |

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LABOR DEPARTMENT RATES SHOE UNIONS

Unions in the leather and leather products manufacturing industry rank seventh among other national unions as to percentage of collective bargaining agreements with check-off provisions, the lastest Labor Department union survey indicates.

In a sampling of 103 leather and shoe industry agreements, the Labor Department found that the industry possessed a rating of 81 percent in contractual check-off provisions.

Results as published in the Aug. issue of the *Monthly Labor Review* listed the following six industries as tops in check-off provisions: textile mill products, 95 percent; tobacco, 94 percent; rubber products (including rubber footwear), 94 percent; chemicals and allied products, 89 percent; primary metal industries, 85 percent; and petroleum and coal products, 84 percent.

National average for all manufacturing industries with check-offs was 69 percent. Leather and shoe unions, accordingly, ranked high on this particular security provision.

Leather and shoe unions, based on 1,033 contracts studied, also rated as follows: providing for a union shop, 34 percent; for membership maintenance, 54 percent and for sole bargaining power, 12 percent.

Compared to the national average, leather and shoe union agreements fell below the average 47 percent for union shops, well above the 23 percent for membership maintenance, and well below the 30 percent for sole bargaining rights.

Ohio

• Diamond Alkali Co., Cleveland, has announced the purchase of the chromic acid of E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, Del. The product will continue to be manufactured by du Pont at its Philadelphia plant, and under the terms of the sale, Diamond will take over distribution of the product on Jan. 1, 1951.

California

• Walter F. Jackson has been named general sales manager of the Western Division of Clinton Foods Corn Processing Division. With headquarters in San Francisco, Jackson will manage sales in Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Western Wyoming and Western Montana.

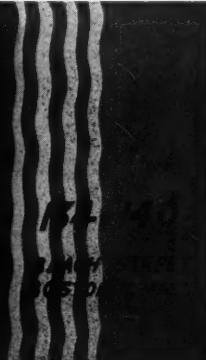
SHOE PRODUCTION FIGURES; JULY, 1950

| Kind of footwear | Production (thousands of pairs) | | | Percent change July 1950 compared with | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| | July 1950 | June 1950 | July 1949 | June 1950 | July 1950 | July 1949 |
| Shoes and slippers, total | 35,330 | 39,070 | 34,456 | —10 | + 3 | |
| Shoes, sandals, and playshoes | 30,889 | 34,221 | 29,880 | —10 | + 3 | |
| Men's | 6,905 | 8,554 | 6,434 | —19 | + 7 | |
| Youths' and boys' | 1,333 | 1,418 | 1,474 | — 6 | —10 | |
| Women's | 16,527 | 16,756 | 15,910 | — 1 | + 4 | |
| Misses' | 2,191 | 2,457 | 2,102 | —11 | + 4 | |
| Children's | 1,764 | 2,175 | 1,662 | —19 | + 6 | |
| Infants' | 1,316 | 1,779 | 1,399 | —26 | — 6 | |
| Babies' | 853 | 1,082 | 899 | —21 | — 5 | |
| Athletic | 286 | 319 | 233 | —10 | +23 | |
| Slippers for housewear | 3,943 | 4,242 | 4,121 | — 7 | — 4 | |
| Other footwear | 212 | 288 | 222 | —26 | — 5 | |
| | (revised) | (revised) | | | | |

 Claiming to be the originators in America of shoe elastic webbing, the Eastern Elastic Gusset Company of Chelsea, Mass., was granted a patent on this development on August 23, 1881.

 In Miami, Florida, in 1934, the open-toe sandals were introduced. At the time retailers did not think such sandals would replace accepted types of warm-weather footwear.

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PACKER HIDES CONTINUE MOVING AT ADVANCED PRICES

Big Packer Hides Up 1/2-1c In Heavy Trading As Other Selections Hold Steady

Heavy hides accumulation about gone. Branded cows active. Calfskins unchanged. Kips move at steady prices. Horsehides slower again.

Fairly liberal supplies of big packer hides have been absorbed by greater demand, resulting in stronger prices. Placement of more orders by the government for more military shoes and other items made from leather stimu-

lated inquiries for practically all selections this week.

The improved demand cleaned up available supplies of heavy hides which had begun to accumulate and packers are now selling into the kill. A premium of one-half cent was restored on northern (St. Paul type) light grubbing heavy native steers and cows last week in late trading and specialty outlets continued to pay the higher basis again this week for additional supplies.

Trading in branded cows continues to be a feature, at least 22,000 more selling this week. A broad demand from tanning shoe manufacturers and sole leather tanners pushed prices higher and seems to be absorbing available supplies despite recent heavy production of this selection. The big seasonal run of branded cows is now starting to taper off. As a result, sole leather tanners also have been active buyers of other selections at advancing prices this week, purchasing heavy branded steers such as butts, Colorados and heavy Texas as well as increasing quantities of heavy native steers and heavy cows from Chicago and river points.

Light hides such as ex light and light native as well as branded steers and light native cows found good sales

from side upper tanners who found it necessary to pay advances for rather limited supplies.

Packers continue to sell freely and in many instances sold ahead into their kill to take care of orders at hand. From present indications, there appear to be no excessive inventories of hides or leather held by packers and tanners.

Despite the advances paid for hides, calf and kip skins still subject to continued price resistance from tanners and lower prices were accepted in some instances on heavy calf during the past week or ten days.

Packer Hides Up

Big packer hides scored gains of 1/2 to 1c per lb., depending upon selection, with trading again heavy in volume, total estimated at 85,000 hides by the "Big Four," and 15,000 by large outside independent packers.

Heavy native steers and branded steers in heavy weights, and bulls, up a half-cent, with light cows, branded cows, light and extreme light native steers up a cent.

In the cow selections, Chicago-St. Paul light native cows are at 34c, with Sioux City-Omaha at 34 1/2c, and Kansas City-Wichita-St. Joe-St. Louis production selling at 35c, all Chicago basis. Light average light cows, Ft. Worth-Oklahoma takeoff, sold at 40c, Chicago basis, also up a cent. River heavy cows sold early at 31c, up a half-cent, later trading brought another half-cent advance, with range quoted at 31 1/2 to 32c, Chicago basis, with Rivers now at 31 1/2c and St.

QUOTATIONS

| | Present | Week Ago | Month Ago | Year Ago |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Native steers | 30 1/2-34 | 30 -33 1/4 | 32 1/2-33 1/2 | 24 -25 |
| Ex. light native steers | 37 1/2N | 36 1/2 | 37 | 29 1/2 |
| Light native cows | 34 -35 | 33 -34 | 33 1/2-34 1/2 | 24 -27 1/2 |
| Heavy native cows | 31 1/2-32 | 30 1/2-31 | 33 -33 1/2 | 24 -24 1/2 |
| Native bulls | 21 -21 1/2 | 21 | 23N | 17 1/2 |
| Heavy Texas steers | 28 1/2 | 28 | 29 | 22 |
| Light Texas steers | 31 1/2 | 30N | 31 | 23 |
| Ex. light Texas steers | 34 1/2 | 33N | 34 | 26 1/2 |
| Butt branded steers | 28 1/2 | 28 | 29 | 22 |
| Colorado steers | 28 | 27 1/2 | 28 1/2 | 21 1/2 |
| Branded cows | 31 1/2-32 | 30 1/2-31 | 31 -31 1/2 | 23 1/2-24 1/2 |
| Branded bulls | 20 -20 1/2 | 20 | 22N | 16 1/2 |
| Packer calfskins | 75 -80 | 75 -80 | 75 -80 | 55 -65 |
| Chicago city calfskins | 58 -60 | 58 -60 | 58 -60N | 40 |
| Packer kipskins | 60 | 55 -60 | 63 | 45 -50 |

HIDE FUTURES

COMMODITY EXCHANGE, INC., FUTURES MARKET

| | Close Oct. 26 | Close Oct. 19 | High For Week | Low For Week | Net Change |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| December | 28.25T | 27.70B | 29.05 | 27.80 | +55 |
| March | 27.10T | 26.42T | 27.95 | 26.45 | +68 |
| June | 27.00T | 26.15B | 27.35 | 27.00 | +85 |
| September | — | 25.75B | — | — | — |
| Total Sales: 240 lots | | | | | |

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Pauls at 32c. Branded cows showed half-cent advance in early business, with later sales at 31½ to 32c, Chicago basis. Northern production sold at 31½c, with Ft. Worth-Oklahoma production at 32c.

In the branded steer trading, heavy Texas, butt branded and Colorado steers up half-cent. Heavy Texas and butts at 28½c, with Colorados at 28c, Chicago basis. Light Texas steers sold in small quantity at 31½c, and extreme light Texas at 34½c, also in light volume.

Light native steers up full cent, with sales at 34c. Heavy native steers now 30½ to 31c, with Rivers at 30½c and St. Pauls at 31c.

Bulls up ½c, with St. Paul native bringing 21½c and Rivers 21c.

Small Packer Hides Up

Small packer hides advanced ½ to 1c per lb. Most of strength reflects the price advance in big packer market. Despite the tanner interest at higher levels, trading restricted due to tight offering situation. According to sellers, not a question of holding out for even higher money, but a question of supply. Choice desirable lots of small packer hides pretty well sold up, any further offerings would mean going into the kill, which sellers would rather not do.

On a 48/50 lb. average weight basis, Midwestern small packer hides sold around 30½c selected for native steers and cows, in carload lots, fob shipping points. Up to 31c selected paid for better quality plump hides, but general going market around the 30½c level. Some sales made in lighter weights including 43 lb. averages at 32½c selected, fob shipping point, Midwestern production. Several cars of 55 lb. averages, very good plump hides, sold at 31c selected, fob shipping point.

Country Hides Quiet

Market generally quiet, prices about in line with last week, even though big packer and small packer markets show considerable strength. Tanners do not feel the need of supplies bad enough to push country hide bid ideas any higher. Most tanners agree that 26½c flat for 48/50 lb. flat trimmed allweights high enough. However, offerings being held higher, as much as a cent. Tanners showing reluctance to follow strength in this market, with result that sales are lacking.

Horsehides Quiet

Continued absence of garment manufacturers in market for finished garment leathers has tended to hold horsehide market at soft level. Tanners figuring market no higher than \$11.75 to \$12 for 65-70 lb. trimmed good

quality Northern horsehides, carload lots, fob shipping points. Sellers fail to see softness to this market, are asking anywhere from \$1.00 to \$1.50 more. Untrimmed lots figured around \$1.20 to \$1.30 above trimmed basis.

Tanners call the front market around \$8.00 to \$8.50, sellers asking considerable more money. Butts, basis 22 inches and up, quoted at \$4.00 to \$4.25, according to tanners' ideas.

Calfskins Firm

No developments in big packer calfskins or in outside calfskin markets. Last sales of big packer Northern calfskins at 75c for heavies and 80c for lights, with Riverpoint production at 71½c for heavies and 77½c for lights, all fob basis. Prices still holding. Production of calfskins very slow, supplies light.

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LEATHER and SHOES

Outside calfskin market relatively quiet, quiet trading indicated, details lacking. Small packer untrimmed allweights offered at 70c, with best reported bids at 65c. City untrimmed allweight calfskins quoted 58 to 60c, with country untrimmed allweights at 45c nominal.

In New York, trimmed packer calfskins quotable at \$4.50 for $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs., 4-5's at \$5.25, 5-7's at \$6.25, 7-9's at \$7.15 and 9-12's at \$9.35. Collector skins, N. Y. trim basis, quoted for 3-4's at \$3.70, 4-5's at \$4.50, 5-7's at \$5.50, 7-9's at \$6.50 and 9-12's at \$8.50.

Big packers sold about 22,000 regular slunks this week at \$3.70 each, off 15c from last reported business.

Kipskins

One of the "Big 2" packers sold 16,000 kipskins this week at steady prices. Sales involved 9,000 Northerns at 60c, with overweights at 55c, Chicago basis. About 7,000 Southern production natives sold at 57½c, overweights at 52½c, also Chicago basis. No other trading took place, some kipskins available.

Small packer kipskins nominally quoted 45 to 50c, with country untrimmed kipskins nominally priced at 36 to 38c. New York trimmed packer kipskins quoted at \$10.75 for 12-17's, and \$12 for 17's and up, with collectors quoting \$9.50 for 12-17's and \$10 for 17's and up.

Deerskins Moving

While buck manufacturers are generally out of the market, claiming that they have enough leather to take care of requirements, reports state some glove buyers have stepped into market for Brazil "jacks" and paid 74c fob., basis importers, for Cearas. Shippers now asking 75c fob. for Manaos and Pará. Late sales of the latter descriptions at from 73-75c fob., as to lots involved. China and New Zealand deerskins have quieted down.

Pigskins Wanted

Brazil market quite strong with Europe in the market and some U. S. dealers paying advances. Manaos grey peccaries sold at \$2.65 fob., basis im-

porters and further bids at that price refused with shippers asking up to \$2.80 fob. Regular Para peccaries held 10-15c less with blacks at the usual 10c differential. Ecuador peccaries and Bolivian peccaries moving somewhat better with prices varied as to lots and assortment.

While relatively few Brazils offered, other descriptions coming in in larger quantities though asking prices usually above ideas of buyers. England paying \$2.65 fob. for wet salted Capivaras and dry Chaco carpinchos firmly held at \$2.85 c&f., basis importers.

Sheep Pelts Steady

Further sales of big packer shearlings and Fall clips with steady money paid on clips, but 10c off on the No. 2 shearlings. No. 1 shearlings sold steady at \$4.75, with No. 2's bringing \$2.60. Fall clips sold steady at \$5.25. Pickled skins in good demand at \$17 per dozen, with packers asking \$18.

The interior packer's lamb pelt sale this month reported at \$5.65 for some lots, with as high as \$5.70 paid for one lot. Other lamb pelt business noted by small packers at \$4.25.

Dry Sheepskins Firm

Fulton County buyers in-between seasons; slow to follow advancing primary markets. Most say they have enough leather or can buy leather in the open-market to take care of any sudden demand.

Hair sheep markets strong at origin and latest advices from the Cape say shippers' ideas are 180 shillings. Last confirmed sales here at \$21.50 per dozen; tops in buyers' views. Europe keeps shippers in well sold up position by meeting their asking prices. Shippers asking \$12.50 for Addis-abeba butcher sheepskins as against buyers' ideas top at \$12.00. Brazil cabrettas mixed and various prices heard depending upon shippers and lots involved. Good regulars cannot be had for less than \$16.50-\$16.75 and specials at \$18.50 c&f. Some report regulars sold at \$16.00. Mombasas held at \$6.00 and higher for shade dried skins. No late offers of Nigerians.

Little change in shearling markets.

Reports indicate shippers are in well sold up position and therefore continue to entertain very high ideas, usually above the views of buyers here.

Wool sheep markets also firm and at latest Sydney, Australia, auction, 32,000 skins offered with \$8s and up as well 2 inches and up selling at par to 1 pence advance while all other descriptions sold at two to six pence higher. Advices from the Cape that shippers selling to Europe at much higher prices than pullers here able to pay.

Considerable interest developing in Papra slats, particularly the 1,000 lbs. Shoe manufacturers have stepped into the market and purchased several lots at up to \$8.50 per dozen and shippers now asking \$9.00 for business. It is said that the 900 lbs. and lighter weights in relatively less demand but strength in the heavier weights has caused shippers to increase their asking prices. No particular news regarding Peruvian slats.

Reptiles Slower

Buyers interested only at a price with latest sales made at concessions. Madras bark tanned whips, 4 inches up, averaging 4½ inches, 70/30 selection, last sold at 92c but best indications now not over 90c. Calcutta bark tanned whips held at 77½c as against buyers' ideas nearer 70c. Madras bark tanned cobras last sold at 65-67c for 4 inches up, averaging 4¾ inches, 70/30 selection. Vipers slow and nominal.

Calcutta oval grain lizards, 40/40/20 assortment and 90/10 selection, selling at 31-33c and further offerings reported at 32c. Calcutta back cuts held at 40c. Ramgodes, 9 inches up, averaging 12/13 inches, 75/25 selection, held at 21c per inch.

Want Ads

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NEWS QUICKS

About people and happenings coast to coast

Massachusetts

• **Rotary Machine Co.**, Lynn, is featuring a blinding array of shoe binding colors in Booth 25, Palmer House, Chicago, during the Shoe Fair. John J. O'Leary, Victor Hertel, Glenda West, Cecil Garner, Thos. Dolan and Joseph Hiss, along with Russell Kumph of Shawsheen Rubber Co., manufacturers of adhesive tapes handled by Rotary, are in attendance. Rotary is manufacturer of the Rotary French Cording Machine and the Rotary Heating Unit.

• **Uni-Mark**, Boston manufacturer of sock linings and other shoe materials, has moved its offices from 60 South St. to 20 East St.

• **Franklin Brothers**, manufacturer of boot and shoe trimmings and shoe findings, is moving offices and factory on Nov. 1 to the former No. 3 W. L. Douglas Shoe Co. plant at 31 Monument St., P.O. Box 536, Brockton 64. The firm will now occupy 20,000 sq. ft. of space in a move to expand its facilities.

• **J. W. Wood Elastic Web Co.** of Stoughton has purchased the former Geo. E. Keith Co. executive building on Station Ave., Brockton, where it will employ about 50 workers in manufacture of elastic webbing.

• Recent wage increases granted **Brockton** area shoe workers will increase annual payrolls of manufacturers by \$1,250,000, according to Walter T. Spicer, executive secretary of the Associated Shoe Industries, representing shoe manufacturers in the district.

Illinois

• **Jack Weiller & Co.**, Chicago hides and skins broker, moves from 130 N. Wells St. to its new offices at the Mercantile Exchange Bldg., 308 W. Washington St., on Oct. 23. The company announces that **Edward Kirkman** has been transferred from St. Louis to Chicago headquarters, where he will become executive assistant to Jack Weiller. **Howard Warren** will cover the territory embracing Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and northern Iowa, while **Fred Strauss**, formerly hide superintendent of Monarch Leather Co., is now travelling hide inspector.

Missouri

• An exhibit called "St. Louis Shoe Industry on Parade" was recently shown in the Stix, Baer & Fuller Co., St. Louis, department store. The exhibit was organized with the help of the St. Louis Shoe Manufacturers Association and United Shoe Machinery Corp. and included demonstrations of five major processes in the manufacture of shoes.

California

• **Norton Wool Co., Inc.**, San Francisco, has announced a change in name to **Legallet Tanning Co.** All of the stock of the corporation is now owned by the latter. Officers are Paul Legallet, Jr., president; Paul Legallet, Sr., vice president; George D. Cummings, treasurer; and Alfred V. Freddiani, secretary. The firm is located at 1099 Revere Ave.

• **Lambkin Products Co.**, Los Angeles, Leroy R. Shep as sole proprietor, has filed an answer to an involuntary bankruptcy petition denying insolvency and requesting jury trial.

• Controlling interest in **Buckingham & Hecht**, San Francisco, footwear wholesaler, has been purchased by Solnit Shoe Co., which has headquarters in Los Angeles. It is understood that the two firms will continue to operate separately.

New York

• **Waverly Footwear, Inc.**, has been incorporated to manufacture shoes at 434 Broadway, New York City. Principals are S. Sloman, Herman Rosen, Leon Katz and Jack Bernstein.

• **Ian C. Somerville**, noted leather chemist, addressed the Oct. 17 meeting of the Western New York section of the American Chemical Society. Somerville, who is associated with Rohm & Haas Co., Philadelphia, spoke on "Recent Achievements of Chemistry in Leather Manufacture."

• **Frank De Sarro** has been appointed making room foreman for **Granada Footwear**, newly established Brooklyn footwear firm. Herman Graff is sales manager.

• **Victor Gottfried Co.**, 154 Nassau St., New York, has been appointed New York and New Jersey sales representative for **A. F. Rees, Inc.**, Hanover, Pa., hides and skins dealer.

• Newly organized New York shoe firms are **Arty Footwear**, 19 Hudson St., Arthur Ganz, principal; and **A. L. Baris Shoe Co.**, 79 Reade St., Alexander Baris, principal.

• Papers for the incorporation of **John Calderazzo Shoe Corp.** in Hempstead, L. I., have been filed. The new firm has no connection with Jaycee Footwear, it is reported, although Calderazzo is president of the latter firm.

• Creditors Committee has finally recommended acceptance of a 25 percent settlement offer made by **Caprice Creations, Inc.**, New York slipper manufacturer, under Chapter XI arrangement. Claims under \$100 are to be paid 25 percent in cash while those over \$100 are payable 10 percent cash with the balance in notes. Liabilities are reported at \$112,243 with assets of \$74,003. Hearing on confirmation is set for Oct. 30.

• **Max Goodfriend** has announced his withdrawal as president of **Everite Footwear, Inc.**, New York footwear manufacturer. It is reported that he has sold his share of the business.

• **Jaycee Footwear Corp.**, Hempstead, L. I., has filed petition for arrangement under Chapter XI of the bankruptcy act. The plan offers creditors 100 percent payable at 25 percent cash with the balance in deferred payments. An involuntary petition was previously filed against the firm. Total assets are reported at \$198,514.

• **Rocket Shoe Co.** at 75 Roebling St., Brooklyn, has been changed to **Helene Shoe, Inc.**

• An exhibition of men's footwear designed by foreign designers will begin Oct. 30 at 6 East 46th St., New York City, according to A. C. Fellman, president of Fellman, Ltd.

Ohio

• **U. S. Shoe Corp.** is planning to build a 6,000 sq. ft. addition to its plant at Crothersville, Ind., which will have a production capacity of 3,000 pairs daily. The addition will be completed in Feb., 1951. The firm's total output is expected to exceed 20,000 pairs daily at this time.

MILITARY LEATHERS

(Continued from Page 7)

incidence of trench foot. The difference lies in proper training and discipline; daily foot inspection and frequent changes of socks.

The main causes of trench foot are insufficient warmth and inefficient circulation of the blood. These are conditions where clothing plays an important part, not footgear alone since heat losses from any part of the body affect the rest of the body, and in this way inadequate handwear or body clothing lowers the temperature of the whole body, including the feet. Obviously this indicates that the whole body needs clothing of adequate warmth. It also means that adequate protection from wetness must be provided, for wet clothing more than anything else robs the body of heat. Still further care must be taken that none of the clothing worn is so tight that it causes constriction and interferes with normal circulation of the blood. Therefore, tight clothing, especially footgear must never be worn under these conditions.

This subject was carefully studied in the 5th Army during Winter 1944-45 under weather conditions which were at least as severe as in North France and Belgium. By the application of proper discipline and training a considerable reduction in the number of casualties from trench foot was attained, as compared with the previous year. Outstanding among the reasons for reducing trench foot in this case was the issue of warmer and more water repellent clothing and footwear, and the use of the shoepac. This item proved particularly effective in keeping feet warmer and drier than had been possible with leather boots alone. It is far more suitable for the Infantryman, who because of his living conditions in the field is particularly susceptible to trench foot, than other types of footwear.

Even with leather footwear, however, it is essential that each Unit Commander check his men and take action to see that shoes are properly sized, and most important, that there is a daily foot inspection with change of socks. When dry socks are issued, the soldier should take off his wet shoes and socks, dry his feet, massage them, put on the dry socks, and put back on his shoes. If he is wearing leather shoes and they are wet, the benefit he obtains is a temporary one, and a very important one, but in a few minutes the socks will become wet from pressure against the wet leather, and the wearer's feet will soon return to their original condition. However, with a soldier wearing shoepacs, there is no wet leather around the feet to wet the socks from the outside, and the inside of the shoe is separated from the foot by two layers of heavy ski socks, which provide good insulation.

Troops accustomed to wet cold conditions become adept at drying out one pair of socks and insoles while others are being worn, and changing them whenever possible. The smart soldier realizes the great importance of having a pair of dry socks over and above any other extra item of clothing and equipment, under temperature conditions at all likely to produce trench foot.

Water Resistance Of Leather

We have not given up the hope that leather footwear can be made more water resistant so that troops who, for one reason or another, cannot be outfitted with shoepacs, will not run the risk of trench foot. A great deal of study has been given both to the treatment of leather to prevent water penetration, and also to means of improving the shoe construction. At least two possibilities for producing shoe upper leather which will not leak appear to be indicated by current developments, while still retaining the desired water vapor permeability of the leather, which is an important part of foot

comfort. A water-resistant treatment for thread has been developed and is currently being tried in shoes, to resist the wicking action of thread by which water may be carried to the interior of the shoe.

Despite the great importance attached by the leather industry to what is commonly referred to as the "breathing" characteristics of leather, it has been surprising to us to find out actually how little is known about the performance of leather in this respect.

Several years ago when we attempted to develop the basic principles of water vapor permeability of leather, we could find no agreement in the industry with respect to this important characteristic. We requested the National Bureau of Standards to conduct a study of water vapor permeability of leather. This work is one of the finest pieces of recent research on leather. In addition to developing an improved and more rapid method for determining water vapor permeability, the report brought out some very significant data with respect to the actual characteristics of such typical so-called "waterproof" leathers. A comparison was made of water vapor permeability of two leathers, one containing 22.8% of grease and one containing 10.2% of grease, the latter being essentially a fat-liquored heavy leather. The water vapor permeability for the stuffed leather as received was very low. After degreasing, the water vapor permeability was quite high and roughly proportional to the thickness. The fat-liquored leather had higher water vapor permeability, but again as with the stuffed leather, the vapor permeability appeared to be generally unrelated to thickness.

The very low vapor permeability of the stuffed leather was surprising, but it has since been checked in numerous other leathers and found to fol-



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low essentially the same pattern. Furthermore, the water resistance of this same leather was not particularly impressive. It actually could not be regarded as water resistant, since on testing on the Maeser testing device it permitted passage of water in a very few minutes. The evidence is quite convincing that conventional stuffing of leather, regardless of the amount of grease added, fails to provide leather which does not leak.

In contrast to this we have found that impregnation of this same type of leather with other materials, such as resins and rubbers, produces leather which has much higher water vapor permeability, while at the same time it is possible to attain much better water resistance. Leathers impregnated with acrylates have far higher vapor permeability, and at the same time have greater resistance to water penetration.

It would appear to be indicated that the industry itself should take cognizance of this fact and apply its research in the direction of providing not only for the military, but for civilians as well, leathers which will retain the claimed water vapor permeability of leather, while at the same time actually provide a high degree of resistance to water penetration.

What the minimum vapor permeability must be to provide foot comfort is very difficult to determine. The National Bureau of Standards in a preliminary investigation some years ago concluded that a level of 350 grams of water per meter per day was needed. Other tests on handwear have indicated around 400 grams. Whether this can be accepted as a definitive level or not, it should be noted that the stuffed leather was found to have a level of only 115 grams. In other words, conventionally stuffed leather closely approaches the non-permeability of such materials as rubber, which would indicate that the use of the shoepac with a rubber bottom actually does not provide a foot covering of much lower foot comfort in this respect than all leather shoes made from conventionally stuffed leather.

It is realized that this whole problem of foot comfort is a very difficult one on which to speak definitively, and an extraordinarily complex one, due in part to the lack of sensitivity of the foot as a recording mechanism for sensation. The problem of the relationship of perspiration disposal to foot comfort is a major one and ought to be attacked on a broad front by the leather and shoe industries themselves. This is particularly

important in view of the number of claims that have been made that lack of vapor permeability is a cause of dermatitis and other foot disorders.

Combat Boot

During the war we developed a combat boot which utilizes a buckle cuff in place of leggings for holding the bottoms of the trousers, and also providing support to the foot and leg.

Recently we have standardized the Boot, Service, Combat, Russet, which is an all-laced boot. It was decided at the end of the war that regardless of whether the boot should be made with a cuff or without, that the leather should be used grain-out. Our present specifications call for this type of leather.

Upper Leather

There is a new specification for Army retan upper leather, MIL-L-3122, with which some of you may be familiar. This specification was developed after extensive discussions with the National Research Council Advisory Committee to the Quartermaster Corps on Leather Research, and after approval by an industry committee appointed by the Tanners' Council. Some of the requirements are spelled out more specifically than in the past. In general it conforms to the best thinking of the industry at this time with respect to this type of leather.

As part of the research program connected with the development of this specification, and in order to provide basic data which could be used in establishing conservation levels of chrome and vegetable tanning materials used in this leather, our office undertook two or three years ago to prepare a planned series of experimental leathers based upon controlled amounts of tanning material and stuffing material. This series of leathers, which was planned in conjunction with representatives

from the industry, is now in the process of analysis and evaluation. Several significant points have been brought out which are receiving further careful study.

For example, it is clearly demonstrated that lower degrees of tannage provide stronger leather. This does not imply that a low degree of tannage is desirable, because strength above a certain minimum is not necessarily a requirement in upper leather. This series of leathers was planned to obtain information on the effects of changes in tannage on various characteristics of upper leather.

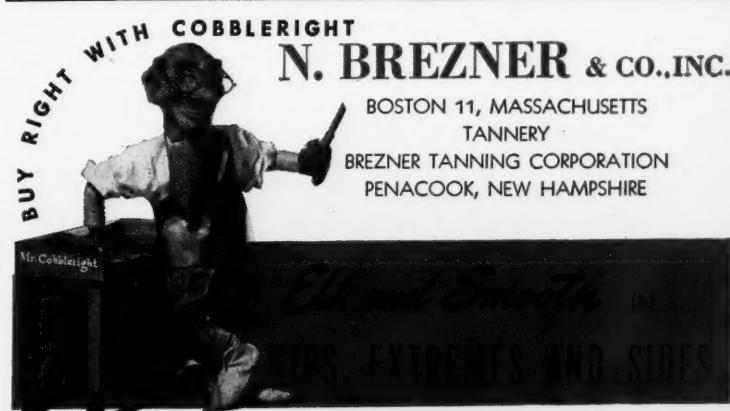
The question is frequently raised as to why the Army uses retan leather in place of a straight chrome leather. The reason for this should be clear to the industry. Retannage plumps up the leather and increases its ability to absorb stuffing. Plumping up the lighter areas increases the cutting efficiency, and provides a more flexible softer leather, which is more comfortable, especially after repeated wetting and drying. In the plumping of leather, a better insulating material is produced.

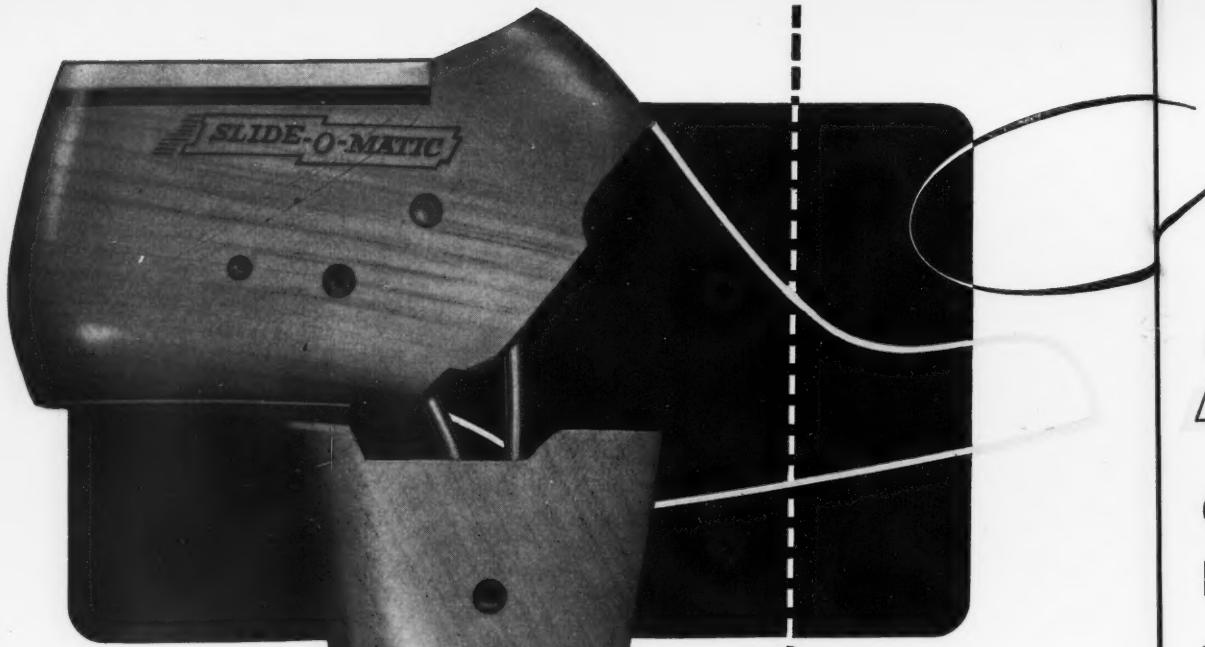
We have been greatly concerned about the loss of military footwear due to various types of micro-organisms. Shoes shipped overseas during the war which were returned to this country were found to contain a large number of unserviceable shoes due to attack by micro-organisms. In order to prevent a recurrence of this situation, the matter was taken up with The Surgeon General, and after an extended shoe-wearing test, two fungicides were approved for use in leather footwear, paranitrophenol and tetrachloroquinone, either in a concentration of three percent. Steps are being taken to change the specifications to require the use of either one of these agents in all leather components of all military

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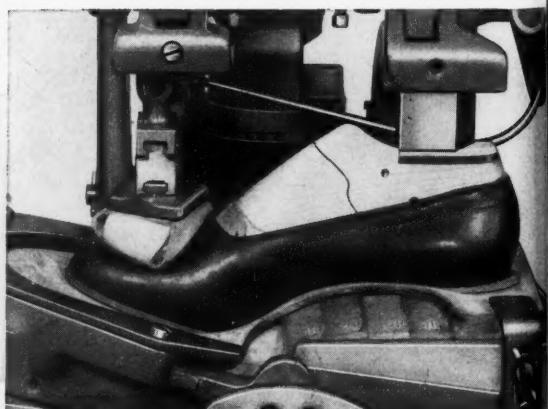
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footwear. Similarly a mildew resistant treatment for thread will also be required.

The specification requirement for these fungicides in leather will be based upon analysis of the finished leather for the required concentration. Testing of the thread will be based upon standard soil burial tests. It is accordingly important in order to avoid loss of time for the shoe manufacturer to require that his supplier of thread certify that the thread meets the required specification, and that he produce test data that the thread meets the specifications in this respect.

Synthetic Tannages

For the production of upper, insole and midsole leather the Military Establishment is confronted with a serious problem from the standpoint of strategic and critical materials. Both chemical chrome and natural vegetable tannins are imported. In time of emergency there is no assurance supplies could be obtained from overseas. Accordingly, development of domestic tanning materials is of the greatest importance.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has been engaged for a number of years in an attempt to develop tanning materials from products of forest and farm. Chestnut can no longer be counted upon as a major source of tanning, since the only remaining domestic supply consists of trees killed by the blight, which are still standing in the Southern Appalachian forests. Further mining of this resource without replacement by normal growth will in the course of a few years largely exhaust this supply. The Eastern Regional Research Laboratories, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, have devoted a great deal of attention to the possibility of obtaining a suitable tanning material from canaigre root, a dock-like plant which grows wild in the arid regions of the Southwest. Progress has been made both in the growing of the plant, and in extraction of its tannin, but it is not at this time to be counted upon as a source of tanning material for an emergency.

Other possible sources of vegetable tannin from Western hemlock, redwood and other forest products, have promise of providing some tanning material, but the prospect at this time is not too encouraging either from a technical or economical standpoint.

The most promising possible source of this type of tanning material is to be found in synthetic tanning materials. Two such materials have been developed, one of which is now on the market and one coming into production, which show very good promise. The first of these, Orotan, made by the Rohm & Haas Company, has been used commercially to a limited extent, and with a high degree of success. A year ago we undertook an evaluation of it on a 100% basis as a replacement for natural vegetable tanning material in sole leather components of low quarter shoes. Over 10,000 pairs of shoes were produced with this material used as a complete replacement, without any notable production difficulty and with the production of leather of satisfactory quality. A limited test of this material against ordinary vegetable-tanned sole and insole leather has shown that it is at least as good as the natural materials. Actually the test showed a slightly better performance in wear of the Orotan-tanned soles than vegetable-tanned soles. The test has not yet been completed.

A further test is being run on approximately 5,000 pairs utilizing Orotan as a 25% replacement, which is considered by the industry as an entirely practicable procedure on an immediate basis.

The second promising material, recently developed by the Chemtan Corporation, is a type of resin tannage. This development, which is also a great contribution to the solution of this problem, appears to offer a good material for work shoe upper leather. Preliminary testing of the material has begun and will be carried forward on an expedited basis.

There are two or three other synthetic tanning materials known to be under development which also offer definite promise. The industrial

concerns undertaking these developments are giving them the utmost attention in the light of the present international situation, and it is hoped that the technical problems remaining before they can be utilized will be rapidly solved.

In order to advance the study of the application of these materials to Army leather, the Tanners' Council has appointed a committee of upper leather tanners to work with us on this matter. Each of six different tanners has agreed to undertake the exploration of one of these tanning materials for us. This is an excellent illustration of cooperative effort which is to be highly commended, and which is very greatly appreciated by our office.

Tannage Performance

With the introduction of synthetic tannages, a major problem is presented for determination of the performance characteristics of leathers tanned with such materials. In the past, analysis of leather has been based largely upon a chemical analysis, and to a limited extent, upon certain physical properties. The use of this type of chemical analysis, obviously based upon long industry experience on performance of the leathers, will not be applicable where neither chrome nor vegetable tanning materials are used, or where some new mixture is employed. Accordingly, means are required to provide a basis for evaluation of such materials.

Our office has accordingly recognized that the problems of instrumentation to develop means for evaluating the relative properties of different types of leather represents a major problem. We have approached this from several standpoints.

The first aspect of concern to us has been the aging properties of leather tanned with different materials. Quartermaster footwear must be stored under a wide variety of conditions, and must be capable of being stored for long periods of time. To test these materials in normal storage might not be indicative of their natural storage properties, and

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in addition it would require excessive time periods to arrive at definite answers. Some form of accelerated storage is clearly indicated to be needed. Because of the behavior of leather at temperatures above approximately 110°F, in that it tends to hydrolyze under warm moist conditions, the use of elevated temperatures for storage testing is not practicable. In addition, the use of carbon arcs and similar accelerated weathering devices produces anomalous results.

What we have developed are test chambers in which conditions are cycled as in a typical storage day. One such chamber cycles as in a temperate summer warehouse, such as Memphis, where it runs from 105°F. at noon to 80°F. at midnight. This cycle is repeated each day. Another test chamber cycles through typical desert conditions ranging from 130°F. at noon to 80°F. at night, with relative humidity from 12% to 50%. The third chamber cycles a typical jungle day, ranging from 103°F. to 75°F. and with relative humidity from 50% to 97%.

To test materials stored in these chambers, the most satisfactory test would be a non-destructive test. This would permit testing of the same material repeatedly over a period of time at exactly the same spot. No such non-destructive test exists in the industry at the present time. Typical non-destructive tests may be classified as follows: a. Sonic. b. Electric. c. Weight or density.

The most promising sonic method for testing leather is the pulse propagation meter. The procedure is

(Concluded on Page 34)

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Well-known Foreign Hide & Skin Importers & Brokers interested in engaging salesman well-known in tannery field and familiar with foreign hides and skins. Write Box No. Z-24, c/o Leather and Shoes, 300 W. Adams St., Chicago, Illinois.

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Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 1950—National Shoe Fair, sponsored by National Shoe Manufacturers Assn. and National Shoe Retailers Assn., Palmer House and other hotels, Chicago.

Nov. 4-8, 1950—Spring Shoe Show, sponsored by Southeastern Shoe Travelers Assn., Atlanta Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Ga.

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Nov. 5-7, 1950—Spring Shoe Show, Central States Shoe Travelers, Muehlebach and Phillips Hotels, Kansas City, Mo.

Nov. 5-7, 1950—Michigan Shoe Travelers Club Show, Hotel Statler, Detroit.

Nov. 12-14, 1950—Spring Shoe Show, Indiana Shoe Travelers Assn., Inc., Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind.

Nov. 12-15, 1950—Spring Shoe Show, sponsored by Southwestern Shoe Travelers Association, Adolphus, Baker and Southland Hotels, Dallas, Tex.

Nov. 12-16, 1950—Parker House Shoe Show, Parker House, Boston.

Nov. 26-30, 1950—Popular Price Shoe Show of America, sponsored by New England Shoe and Leather Assn. and National Assn. of Shoe Chain Stores. Hotels New Yorker and McAlpin, New York City.

Dec. 4-6, 1950—Factory Management Conference, sponsored by National Shoe Manufacturers Assn. Hotel New Yorker, New York City.

Jan. 13-17, 1951—37th annual MASRA Convention and Mid-Atlantic Shoe Show. Sponsored jointly by Middle Atlantic Shoe Travelers Assn. and Middle Atlantic Retailers Assn. The Benjamin Franklin, Philadelphia.

L and S Editorial

(PAGE 4 THIS ISSUE)

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MILITARY LEATHERS

(Concluded from Page 33)

based on the measurement of the speed of sound through the material. This office has such a pulse propagation meter in our laboratory and is currently experimenting with it to determine its applicability to leather.

In addition, the whole matter of mechanical properties of leather and appropriate tests therefore are underway. Existing tests do not adequately describe the physical properties of leather. Several new tests are being studied, including one on burst, one on cycling strain, tear tests and flex tests.

This study will involve a thorough analysis of the stress-strain characteristics involved in various tests of physical properties of leather, which should provide a better understanding of these properties, their applications and limitations.

Summary

It is hoped that by a restudy of the mechanical properties of leather and of possible instrumentation to measure its structural relationship to performance, a better means will be obtained for evaluating variations in tannage and other finishing materials for leather. It particularly is hoped that laboratory methods may be developed which can ultimately be related to field performance.

What I have outlined here is a general statement of certain aspects of our specifications and our research and development which will have a bearing in the not too distant future upon Quartermaster requirements for leather and footwear. It is hoped that from this brief resume you may gain a realization of the intensive study which we have given both to the matter of improving the functional serviceability of military footwear and to dealing with the very difficult problems of conservation of critical and strategic materials. It is believed that the leather and footwear industries together can contribute materially to the solution of those problems through their own industry research, and at the same time obtain information which may be capable of application on commercial production.

Advertisers Index

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Amalgamated Leather Cos., Inc. | 34 |
| American Cyanamid Co., Industrial Chemicals Division | Front Cover |
| American Cyanamid Co., Calco Chemical Division | 9 |
| American Extract Co. | 18 |
| American Hide & Leather Co. | 2 |
| Barbour Welting Co. | 22 |
| Blackhawk Tanners | 20 |
| Breznar, N., & Co., Inc. | 29 |
| Calco Chem. Div., American Cyanamid Co. | 9 |
| Calzado y Teneria | 18 |
| Chemical Service Corp. | 33 |
| Colonial Tanning Co., Inc. | Back Cover |
| Crompton-Richmond Co., Inc. | 15 |
| Davis Leather, Inc. | 21 |
| Dow Chemical Co., The | 5 |
| Gebhardt, A. L., Co. | 20 |
| Geilich Leather Co. | 32 |
| Greenebaum, J., Tanning Co. | 21 |
| Industrial Chem. Div., American Cyanamid Co. | Front Cover |
| Irving Tanning Co. | 23 |
| Isaacson-Greenbaum | 25 |
| Limon, Geo., Tanning Co., Inc. | 23 |
| Lincoln, L. H., & Son, Inc. | 24 |
| Lynn Innersole Co. | 23 |
| Ohio, The, Leather Co. | 19 |
| Ormond Tool & Mfg. Co. | 28 |
| Pilar, A. J. & J. O. | 25 |
| River Plate Imp. & Exp. Corp. | 26 |
| Ross, A. H., & Sons Co. | 19 |
| Rotary Machine Co., Inc. | 22 |
| Safety Box Toe Co. | 17 |
| Schlossinger & Cia, Ltda. | 28 |
| Standard Embossing Plate Mfg. Co. | 25 |
| Superior Tanning Co. | 22 |
| Taber Pump Co. | 24 |
| United Shoe Machinery Corp. | 10, 30 and 31 |

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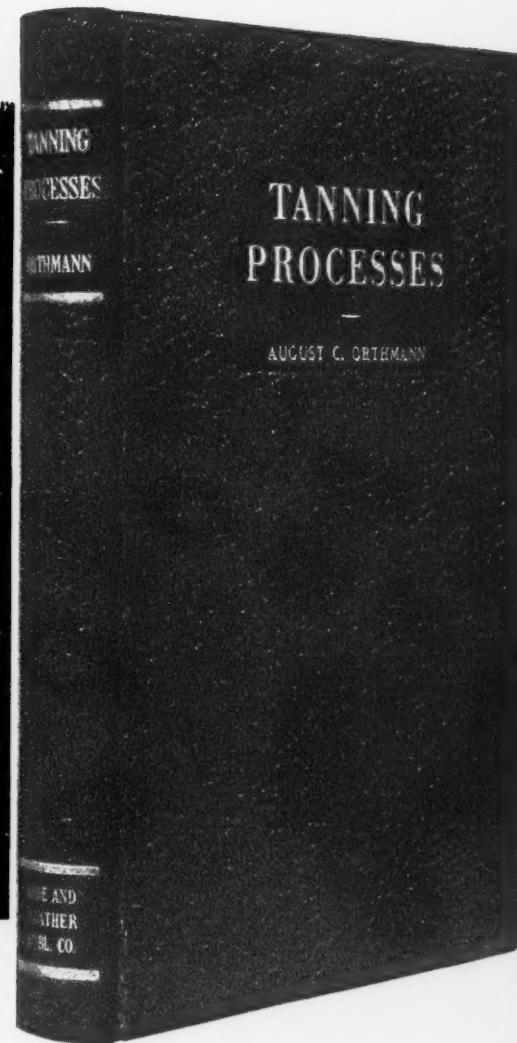
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Chapter 3. Goatskins.

Chapter 4. Sheepskins.

Chapter 5. Side Leather Tanning Gun Metal Sides, Patent Leather.

Chapter 6. Chrome Retan Sole Leather.

Chapter 7. Pigskin Strips, Pigskin for Gloves.

Chapter 8. Horsehide Leather.

Chapter 9. White Leather.

Chapter 10. Harness Leather.

Chapter 11. Vegetable-Tanned Sole Leather.

Chapter 12. Miscellaneous Leathers: Kip, Lace Leather, Chrome, White and Rawhide, Chrome Belting, Mechanical, Hydraulic, Rawhide for Luggage, Bag, Case and Strap Leather, Pickled Bellies, Splits.

Chapter 13. Coloring and Coloring Materials.

Chapter 14. Fattiguring and Fattiguring and Stuffing Materials.

Chapter 15. Leather Finishing and Finishing Materials.

Chapter 16. Chemicals Used in the Tannery and Their Reactions.

Chapter 17. Vegetable Tanning Materials.

Chapter 18. Water in the Tannery.

Complete Index

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